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1820

Henry Marks

June 24th, 1830.

AN HISTORICAL
AND
Practical Treatise
ON
SYPHILIS, GONORRHEA, GLEETS,
SEMINAL WEAKNESS, STRICTURES,
ERUPTIONS, NODES, AND NOCTURNAL PAINS,
SO FREQUENTLY MISTAKEN FOR RHEUMATISM.

*These subjects are illustrated by a variety of highly interesting Cases, together
with the Miseries of a SECRET VICE, so long and so unhappily
pursued by the Youth of both Sexes :*

AND THE
GENERAL NATURE AND TREATMENT
Of Local and Constitutional Debility ;

WITH
IMPORTANT REMARKS ON THE EVILS
RESULTING FROM
ATTEMPTS AT SELF-CURE.

Principiis obsta : sero medicina paratur.

BY C. B. COURTENAY, M.D.

ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

FIFTH EDITION.

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY SHERWOOD AND CO. PATERNOSTER-ROW ; ONWHYNN, 4, CATHE-
RINE-STREET, STRAND ; WALKER, 197, HIGH-HOLBORN ; W. MARSH,
145, OXFORD-STREET ; CHAPPELL, 59, PALL MALL ; BY
MESSRS. SUTHERLAND, CALTON-STREET, EDINBURGH ;
J. CHAPPELL, 98, ROYAL EXCHANGE ; AND BY
ALL BOOKSELLERS IN TOWN AND
COUNTRY.

1829.

“ Amongst the numerous Medical and Surgical Works of the day, we consider that written by Dr. Courtenay, on Syphilis, and other frequently fatal complaints, to be worthy of the highest encomiums, and justly deserving the serious attention of all those persons who may unfortunately happen to be afflicted with the maladies which form the subject of this very interesting publication. The luminous views taken of these diseases, together with the important warnings against excesses, entitle this work to great praise; and we may add, as a further recommendation, that it is written with much delicacy and morality.”—*Inspector and Literary Review*.

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INTRODUCTION.

As every Author is expected, in these days, to assign or to invent a reason, for troubling the public with his productions, I shall accommodate myself to this understood formality, and state briefly, and without parade, the considerations which have induced me to appear before it.

During a long and sedulous attendance at the different hospitals in London, Edinburgh, and Paris, I had ample opportunities of observing, and minutely watching through their several progresses, a great variety of dangerous and in-

has been organized, subverting at once the fanciful theories of impudent and ignorant empirics, and exercising an irresistible influence on the population of every part of the globe: allowing always for the obvious and necessary distinctions of clime, constitution, and local or accidental circumstances. From the vast mass of contending opinions which perplexed mankind for nearly three centuries after the appearance of this dreadful malady in Europe, clear and comprehensive views of its origin, progress, and extinction, directly leading to decisive and successful treatment, have now been collected. But above all, the numerous and essential improvements made during the last forty years in the means of cure, whether internally or externally applied, have placed medical science, with respect to the various branches of the disease, upon a basis as solid and certain as could be expected from the noblest concurring powers of the human mind. These improvements have chiefly taken place in **CHEMISTRY**, **ANATOMY**, the **PRACTICE** of **MEDICINE**, and **SURGERY**.

The FIRST presents itself with all the attractions of a science entirely new, yet with all the certainty of one established for centuries. We are enabled by its tests and qualities to ascertain the true nature of the blood, and to acquire clear and definite ideas of animal fluids, which before were either confused or totally unknown. We are no longer perplexed in distinguishing the nature of mineral preparations and vegetable substances; and their salutary consequences are triumphantly confirmed by a long series of experiments, which constitute a new era in the History of Medicine.

In the SECOND, the structure, situation, and parts of the human frame, are accurately delineated; and, Physiology, so closely connected with Anatomical knowledge, makes us intimately acquainted with the actions and powers of the animated body.

The THIRD has been admirably simplified by the correct exposition of its views and the acute discrimination of the *Ratio Symptomatum*; which,

requiring changes of treatment in the varying fluctuations of the malady, conformable to the indications, suggests to the practitioner the appropriate means of cure. Fortunately for the relief of the miserable victims of venereal infection, almost every material alteration in the PRACTICE of MEDICINE has, in recent times, terminated in improvement.—This is as it should be. The destruction of any one system, unless it were possible to substitute another of superior utility, must be reckoned among those evils which the restlessness of the human intellect has so abundantly multiplied from the earliest ages.—The impracticability of creating a beneficial change in the whole of that extensive circle of the sciences connected with medicine, unless by an imitation of the slow and gradual operations by which Nature and her great Author effect improvements in the moral and physical Universe, is so evident to every philosopher, that he naturally attaches the idea of extreme arrogance, or extreme folly, to such chimerical conceits.

The *Ratio Medendi* can only be improved by that philosophical acuteness and clinical fidelity, which have immortalized the name of SYDENHAM. The formation of nomenclatures, with all the fanciful hypotheses of system-mongers, will be forgotten with their authors : while the sagacious industry of those who patiently explore the paths of experimental inquiry, in a regular and progressive series of professional industry, holds out the cheering hope of at length arriving at the fountain head of that celestial spring, which clothes the fields of science with perpetual verdure.

SURGERY,—the FOURTH branch which has been noticed, in point of improvement—has now at length emerged from its ancient degraded state to an honourable and proud pre-eminence, by the labours, researches, and ingenuity of its professors. No longer considered as a mere mechanical occupation—an operative art—it ranks with *medicine*, as a science ; or, to speak more properly, it is identified, peculiarly with regard to the treatment of Lues

Venerea, with medicine, in the knowledge and practice of one common science. Upon this union, which is altogether inseparable, a contemporary physician of considerable eminence in his view of science, which he defines, a *Knowledge of the laws of Nature*, introduces the following remarks:—"He who knows what is known of the order of nature in the production, progress, and termination of surgical diseases, merits as justly the title of scientific practitioner, as the well-educated physician. The practical parts of physic and surgery are frequently dis-united ; but their theory and principles are indivisible, since they truly constitute one and the same science." Of the efficacy of surgery in the most dangerous and extreme cases of this afflicting malady, we have instances too numerous to be detailed : and it is impossible to contemplate without a high national feeling, the ample share which several distinguished practitioners of this country have had in promoting its best interests, and contributing to its actual perfection.

It may, therefore, with fairness be assumed, that persons afflicted with Syphilis in its most virulent forms—except where the cure has become *completely hopeless*—are justified in the strongest expectations of recovery: and let it not be forgotten that the happy means of effecting that great end, are not the result of chance or fancy, but the certain consequences of persevering investigation, and unwearied experiment! No schemes, no systems, can be brought to perfection in the closet only. Study and reflection will, indeed, contribute arrangement and symmetry, but practical observation is the life-blood of medical science; and skill, adequate to relieve the sufferings of the patient, can only be acquired by constant experience.

A complete knowledge of the diversified symptoms and cure of this insidious malady, can only be attained by those who, after going through a regular course of Medical Instruction, direct their attention exclusively to this particular branch of their profession. It is from a conviction of my just claim to this character,

that I am induced to present to public notice the result of many years experience, which has led to such important improvements in my plan of cure, as at once to demonstrate its superior efficacy.

But in this discussion concerning the diseases of the generative organs, and their destructive effect, I deprecate the idea of gratifying the pruriency of licentious minds, or of encouraging the pernicious indulgencies of sensual and immoral habits: on the contrary, I trust, it will appear that I have endeavoured to treat of these complaints and their consequences, with as much delicacy, and even philosophic gravity, as the nature of the subject can admit; for a due regard to these, ever constitutes the ornament of the medical character.—True modesty should have no cause; affected modesty, no pretext for offence. In a metropolis, opulent, crowded, and overgrown like ours, the excesses of sexual intercourse necessarily operate to tarnish the general character, especially where the fashion of lax habits, and the misapplication of wit and

humour, lend their powerful aids to immorality, and render the chastity of our male youth rather a subject of insupportable ridicule than of honorable approbation. It must also be obvious, that inconsiderate individual attachments are too commonly formed with promising prospects of durability, which frequently produce merely temporary unions : such being speedily dissolved by the neglect or disgust ever supervening upon satiety, or by the natural desire inspired by new objects, or by inconvenient circumstances, or the general effects of interest, vanity, or ambition. In the present state of society, the chastity of young men being a virtue rather to be desired than expected, it becomes the province of medical humanity to caution them against the danger of contracting a disease always troublesome and sometimes fatal, and to offer to them the most efficacious means of cure, when, unhappily, it has been contracted.—The Chapter on Strictures, in the following work, will not, I trust, even by professional men, be deemed unimportant or uninteresting : and to those who labour under

that malady, it must be no light consolation, to find how easy is the attainment of a cure, and to what a certainty they may free themselves from its distressful and dangerous symptoms, by the means which are there recommended.

In the afflicting catalogue of human diseases, where can we find any that more embitter life, than those which are the consequence of neglected or ill-treated venereal infection? or than those which result from the lamentable and too frequent addiction to a secret vice, condemned alike by natural feelings, by morality, by religion, and which is the certain harbinger of premature decrepitude and decay? To propose, publicly, the only method hitherto found to be eminently effectual against evils so awful, can never be considered by the wise and prudent as matter of inferior importance; and entertaining, as I do, not a doubt of its efficacy, I indulge the hope that through my instrumentality, many of those physical and moral miseries may be averted, which have existed too long, to the scandal and reproach of medicine. That such a plan will

meet with just encouragement from a nation characterized by philanthropy and humanity, it is impossible to doubt: for whether we regard the undertaking morally or politically, its effects appear equally desirable in curing *some* and warning *all* against the excesses of criminal indulgence.

To preserve the manly habits of the youth, and to rear them in a vigorous constitution of mind and body, has been in all ages the great aim of philosophical legislation: in the organization of infant states, it has been the first anxiety of the founders; but in a country like ours, where the highest refinements of civilization are diffused, it is interwoven with our future existence as a people. National degeneracy can be retarded by no other means:—*averted* altogether, I fear it can never be.*

* Among all the authors, ancient and modern, who have written on the subject of Venereal complaints, not one has, according to my judgment, displayed such scientific skill—both in their development and cure—as the justly celebrated JOHN HUNTER. In fact, I have endeavoured to make him my model throughout;

finding his opinions justified, in almost every occurrence of my own long practice. The opinions which I have embodied in the following sheets are, for the most part, in strict conformity with his : indeed, I have not scrupled to adopt, in many instances, the precise expressions of that luminary of chirurgical science. It is therefore, with equal candour and pride, that I acknowledge my obligations to his superior judgment ; sanctioning, as I feel it does, my prosecution of a mode of practice which has resulted so beneficially to my patients, and so satisfactorily to my personal feelings.

CONCERNING
VENEREAL DISEASES,
THEIR
TREATMENT AND CURE.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE VENEREAL INFECTION AND ITS FIRST APPEARANCE IN EUROPE.

To analyse in detail a subject to which able and elaborate authors have dedicated so many volumes, all of which, as far as I could procure them, I have read, would be foreign to my plan. Among this numerous class of writers, it is natural to imagine, that there must exist a variety of opinions; some arguing hypothetically, and some from supposed inductions; others from established and admitted facts, and their consequent inferences.

Amidst the diversity of opinions respecting the origin and antiquity of this disease, some may with safety be adopted, and others with equal propriety rejected. Some writers have not hesitated to assert, that this was the disorder with which that great patriarch of ancient times, JOB—so renowned for his wealth, his sufferings, and his patience—was afflicted; and that the leprosy, so universal in Asiatic countries, was nothing more nor less in its nature and malignity, than what we now call the Ve-

nereal Disease. But though disorders may be similar we are not thence to conclude that they are the same; as I shall hereafter shew, with respect to the two now under our comparative consideration. At what time this dreadful malady, the very idea of which poisons the source of our most happy moments, was first introduced among mankind in general, or into Europe in particular, is a matter not easily to be ascertained. Thus much we may affirm, from accounts transmitted to us by ancient writers; that the Lues, with its horrid and fatal symptoms, such as we find it described by medical and other authors in the beginning of the sixteenth century, was quite unknown among the Greeks and Romans, although they were as much addicted to sexual intercourse as the French or any other modern nation. For, otherwise, their physicians, who are scrupulously minute in recording both the diseases known before, and in their own time, would have mentioned it, as well as their mode of curing it. But it is clear they knew of no such disorder: though in not much more than three centuries since its first appearance in Europe, it has afforded materials, during that period, for several thousand publications.

Another opinion sought to be established

respecting the antiquity of this complaint, is founded on an application of the description of the progressive stages of pestilential disorders to those of the venereal. But although there may be some trifling degree of similarity, yet they are quite distinct diseases, the former being occasioned by wet seasons, pestiferous dews and damps, and rendered still more malignant when the wind blows from certain points; whereas, the latter is in general only contracted by coition. Galen himself entertains the same opinion with Hippocrates, respecting the character of pestilential disorders.

Dr. Astruc, physician to Louis the XIth of France, a man of profound learning and indefatigable industry, has written a treatise on this subject, wherein he takes great pains to shew that this disease was endemical to the Antilles, discovered by Columbus; and he fixes the first period of its introduction into Spain, and consequently into Europe, at the end of the year 1494, by one Pedro de Mergoit, a Catalonian gentleman, who arrived with the mother of Columbus from the new world. The same author adds, that in October, 1495, when Columbus fell under the displeasure of Isabella, Queen of Castile and Leon, he was brought, by her orders, back to Spain with 400

of his soldiers, all afflicted with the Venereal Disease. Here Dr. Astruc quotes a number of physicians equally distinguished for their veracity and intelligence, together with many respectable historians, to prove that the Venereal Disease was then common in Hispaniola, and the adjacent islands; and that it was, by the Spaniards, brought over in their ships that sailed in that great expedition with Columbus — so far physicians and historians seem to agree. Physicians of those days inform us, that the arcana of medicine were explored in vain for a remedy: the disorder therefore was clearly an exotic in Europe. From Spain it was speedily communicated to Italy and Portugal, in both of which kingdoms it was called the Spanish pox. It was introduced into France also, by the troops of that nation, who caught the contagion in the various changes of the warfare then carried on against the Spaniards in Italy, wherein the wenches, who followed the respective camps, became alternately the property of either army, as they were respectively victorious. It remains only to be remarked, that we, receiving such a favour from our neighbours, the French, did, from a principle of *politeness*, as well as *gratitude*, denominate it the Morbus Gallicus, or French Pox.

It has travelled with commercial celerity through most parts of the habitable globe; the last place receiving it, generally calling it by the name of the country whence it was imported. Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo, who accompanied Columbus in his discovery of the Antilles, affirms, that the women there, from habitual indolence and filthiness, often lived on worms, spiders, serpents, bats, and on a kind of lizard, palatable indeed, but poisonous to any but the natives. This statement induced Dr. Lister to give a decided opinion that the venereal poison in these islands was engendered in the very blood of the natives. Another circumstance he mentions, and it is such indeed as will apply to all nations under the torrid zone: that, in their menstrual state the women are so intolerably hot, and so unusually indecent, that they frequently lie in the highways entreating and provoking indiscriminate connexion with men, the heterogeneity of whose semen, co-operating with the causes just mentioned, completed the venereal poison, and gave it the complexion which it wore at its first introduction into Europe by the followers of Columbus. It would far exceed the limits of my present plan to enter into a particular refutation of all the contemporary opinions

respecting the origin and antiquity of this disease, as maintained by Sydenham, Bennet, Arden, and many others. For instance:—First, that it was known to the Greeks and Romans. Secondly, that it was known in Europe before the year 1494, and particularly in France. Thirdly, that it is but another name for the leprosy, which latter disorder is said to have disappeared on its introduction. To these three opinions, or general assertions, I shall endeavour briefly to reply. To the first that it was known to the Greeks and Romans, I answer *not*;—for the reasons already assigned—namely, that all their medical books are silent on the venereal poison; at least all that ever came under my perusal. I know it is alleged as a proof, on the other hand, that the very appellatives of the parts of the disease are Greek words, such as phymosis, paraphymosis, bubo, and many others; but this proves no more than that there was a disorder something similar among the ancient Greeks and Romans, who were, it is admitted, licentious, and lascivious in the extreme; and that, from the excess of venery, though even among *sound* persons of both sexes, it produced those inflammations, excoriations, and sores, which, while they continued their unbridled habits, made

remedies and relief necessary. But when the repetition of contact ceased, its consequences ceased also. Let those, however, who maintain that this was the same Lues Venerea with which we are now afflicted, attend to an undeniable *proof* that it was not so ;—namely, that as soon as the Roman votaries to Venus left off their sacrifices, their respective annoyances left *them*. Is this the case with the venereal poison at this day ? Sad experience says, no ; for the peculiar malignity of this disorder, is such, that, notwithstanding a discontinued sexual intercourse, the complaint still rages with increasing fury, and nature has no power inherent in her, as in other diseases, to stay or mitigate the progress of the growing mischief.

Secondly,—The Lues Venerea was known in Europe before the year 1494, and particularly in France. If this assertion be true, it is very extraordinary that Francis the First of France should not find a remedy for it in his whole kingdom, where it has been so boldly asserted to have prevailed for centuries before. Francis caught it by an affair of gallantry with a tradesman's wife, and ultimately fell a victim to it. Hence it is clear, that, though the disorder was known, its cure was

still a desideratum. It will also appear not only strange, but absurd, that had the Venereal disorder been known in France for such an alleged length of time before the year 1493 or 4, at which period I have already, I hope, sufficiently proved its introduction into Europe by Columbus—the government and police of Paris did not take the same pains which they subsequently did in October, 1497, to prevent its ravages ; for at this period a decree was published, commanding every person suspected of the Venereal infection, or found actually infected with it, to depart the city in twenty-four hours, *under pain of death*, the better to prevent the dissemination of this (then) new disease. The provincials suspected of being infected by it, were ordered home to their respective provinces, and not to return without producing proofs of health, under pain of death ; and the inhabitants of Paris, under similar infection, were transported to the suburbs of Saint Germain, into hospitals purposely prepared for their accommodation, there to be kept till they could produce certificates of their complete restoration to health, under the incommutable penalty of *death*, for returning without such certificates ? If, then, the *Lues Venerea* was, as it has been erroneously as-

serted to be, so well known in Paris before the period alluded to, why was there such alarm at the danger of contagion; when it could only be disseminated by coition or contact? And, on the other hand, if it was so well known for centuries *before*, why were not its *remedies* known? From all combining and corroborating circumstances and proofs, it will appear evident to every unprejudiced observer, that it was a disorder lately introduced, for which there was, at that time, no known, or at least no certain remedy. Its very novelty surrounded it with an accession of terror, which made its ravages more awful, as they seemed to be irrepressible; and, when its virulence gained strength in proportion to its duration without a cure, the above violent coercive degree was passed to quiet a dismay which was already become universal. This edict alone is sufficient to repel the opinion that it was a disorder of ancient standing, since other and more efficacious means would certainly have been provided against it, than the *suave qui pœuit* of popular consternation and despair. Now for the third and last of these general assertions, viz.—That it was but another name for the leprosy; and I take leave to insist, that no two disorders incident to the human system can be more distinct or separate. In leprous patients

the genitals are not more affected than other parts. The Venereal Disease never produces that insensibility that was the concomitant of Leprosy, and gave rise to the proverb, "As stupid as a leper." Most physicians who have written on the Elephantiasis, or Leprosy, affirm, that patients were seldom or never cured of it: whereas the very worst stages of the Venereal disorder, in skilful hands, will generally admit of a cure.

When the Lues first made its appearance in Paris, so cautious were the commissioners of health to prevent any intercourse between the two descriptions of afflicted, — namely, the Leprous and the poxed, that they engaged houses for lodging the Leprous, to prevent their catching the Venereal disease, and thereby adding one calamity to another, under the idea that the issue of such connexion would entail additional hereditary destruction on mankind.

With respect to that part of the general charge now under consideration, which says, that Leprosy immediately disappeared on the introduction of the Lues Venerea, the contrary is proved by the concurrent testimony of most of the respectable physicians of Europe; for they agree, that the Leprosy was not extinguished in Europe, until a century after the importation of Venereal poison from the Antilles. I have thus,

I hope, to the satisfaction of my readers, clearly refuted the three once popular opinions, and settled the origin of the disorder from the Antilles; refuted the opinion of its being known to the ancient Greeks and Romans: and, finally, exposed the absurdity of its being another name for the Leprosy. After this brief outline of the history of the disorder, I shall proceed to make some observations on the Venereal infection.

CHAPTER II.

ON THE NATURE OF THE VENEREAL POISON.

CONCERNING the nature of the Venereal poison, we know no more than we do of that of small-pox, or any other species of contagious disorder. We know only that the smallest particle of this poison is sufficient to bring on the most violent disorganization of the whole system; and that like other contagion, it must have been introduced into the system before it produces such effect. I am of opinion that the venereal virus has not its different degrees of acrimony, but that it is the same in every patient, differing only with regard to particular parts which it affects, and to the different habits and constitutions of the persons who receive it.

It has been supposed by some medical writers, that mercury destroys this virus by its *sedative*; while others contend for its *evacuant*; others, that it owes its ascendancy to its *astrigent* properties. But I am convinced that it does not act on this complaint by its possessing any of these qualities: if it did so, opium, being a more powerful sedative than mercury, would

be the better remedy. Elaterium is a greater evacuant. Vitriol, balustrines, and bark, are considerably superior as astringents; yet, none of these medicines are effective against the Venereal Disease. It is, therefore, my decided opinion, that mercury possesses a certain specific power of counteracting the venereal virus, by mixing with the poison, and thus converting it into what is no longer hurtful to the system, but which has some new properties which appertained to neither of them before their union. Mercury, the only remedy on which any reliance can be placed as a specific for the cure of Syphilis, was very little known before the fifteenth century; the term Quack, or originally Quackalber, was a name of this metal, and applied to the irregular indiscriminate use of it. Though mercury of itself is perfectly void of acrimony, taste, or smell, the ancients believed it to be a corrosive poison. We find, however, that preparations of mercury were used in the thirteenth century; since Theodorick, a friar, afterwards bishop of Cervia, in his writings, cautions against catching cold during its use. Massue, the Arabian, was the first who used mercury medically, and he ventured to apply it only as an ointment to remove cutaneous diseases. In the sixteenth century, while lues venerea baffled the

medical knowledge of the followers of Galen, one of the greatest revolutions medical science ever experienced took place. The learning of the Greeks was found to be altogether insufficient for the cure of this malady: it yielded to mercury. This was a great matter of triumph to the chemists.

Formerly they had prescribed their medicines by stealth; but Paracelsus now prescribed opium and mercury publicly, bidding defiance to the regular physicians; and, since his time, a period of nearly three hundred years, mercury has uniformly retained its high character. Various theories of its operation have been advanced. Mr. Hunter supposed that its stimulant operation induces and maintains an action incompatible with the morbid action produced by the venereal virus; and some have thought that this virus is decomposed by mercury.

We know the small-pox is about three weeks before it makes its appearance after the infection is received from the atmosphere, and eight or ten days by inoculation; but the venereal virus seems to keep no particular period, sometimes attacking the patient a few hours after an impure connection, and at other times remaining several days before it makes its appearance.

The generality of men feel the first symptoms of a clap between the second and fifth day ; but there are instances which have come under my own observation, where it did not appear till after as many weeks ; thus the greatest part of mankind are easily infected with the venereal poison ; but there are some who seem altogether to bid defiance to its effects, for, notwithstanding that they run every risk, they escape without ever being the least infected.

So it is with some, who, though they go into infected places, never catch the small-pox, although they expose themselves to inoculation, or every hazard by which the disease is generally communicated. Some are more liable to be infected at one time than at another, and those who have been once infected, are more liable to catch the infection a second time, than those who never were infected with the disease. The same difference is observable in the progress made by the disease after the patient is infected ; in one patient the progress is slow, and the disease appears scarce to gain any ground ; while in another it advances with the utmost rapidity, and speedily produces terrible symptoms.

The climate, season, age, state of health, are perhaps, as in other diseases, the necessary

predisposing causes in these cases. I have likewise seen instances where the virus has lain four, five, or six weeks, on the surface of the genitals, before it was observed, and had it not then produced a chancre, it might probably not have been absorbed. I have very frequently observed that common women have communicated the disease to a variety of men in the space of a few days; while themselves appeared not to be affected in the system by absorption. With respect to the time the poison may remain in the blood before it produces Venereal symptoms after being absorbed, this is not so easily to be ascertained: but it is universally known to the profession that it has remained in the system for months, and even years, before it has produced evident signs of its being Venereal. I shall elucidate this observation by relating a melancholy and fatal case of a young man who was under the care of a medical friend of mine. This patient was afflicted with a small chancre on the glans penis, for the cure of which he had recourse to a certain patent pill. After continuing the use of them for two or three months, without finding himself completely well, he applied (as he informed my friend), to almost all the nostrums now advertised for the cure of this complaint. In the

course of ten months the chancre healed, and, he, conceiving himself well, married. In about eighteen months he felt considerable soreness in his throat. Indeed he had often slight uneasinesses, which he attributed to cold; but his symptoms now became so alarming, as to induce him to apply for assistance to a neighbouring apothecary, whom he informed that it proceeded from cold. All the usual medicines in that case were administered without the least effect; and the patient became so much reduced by the rapid aggravation of the disorder, as to require the assistance of Dr. Meyer, physician to the Finsbury Dispensary; who, as soon as he inspected the throat of his patient, pronounced it venereal. His situation now became truly deplorable. The bones of the throat, nose, cheeks, and forehead, were diseased; the eyes themselves continued considerably swollen, and in violent pain for about three weeks, the sight diminishing all the while, till at last it was totally lost. In this most distressing situation he was removed to the London Hospital, where he lived a fortnight, the disease marking its progress by still more frightful ravages. At last he became such a dreadful spectacle of suffering, that his groans and moanings induced the whole ward

to join him in prayers for his speedy dissolution.

This fatal case should caution the credulous not to trust to the efficacy of nostrums. Among the hordes of empirics who infest this metropolis, there is scarcely one who does not pretend to possess some particular medicines, which have performed almost supernatural wonders. By matchless impudence they impose on the unthinking, who become sooner or later miserable sufferers, like the wretched person whose case has been just related. It is undoubtedly true, that to cure this disorder in all its different stages, it requires not only a great variety of medicines, but a considerable judgment in the selection and administration of them: as also that knowledge of the constitution of the patient, which only frequent and judicious observation can confer. Hence great abilities are often necessary to effect a perfect and radical cure of confirmed lues, or of any venereal complaint which has been improperly treated.

Venereal complaints were formerly more violent, and oftener fatal than they are at present. This has justly been ascribed to the deeper malignity of the poison, when first introduced into Europe; and we know, from modern experience, that it grew milder. I do not, however, admit

this too universally, for I have had patients whose cases, in all their different symptoms, were as violent and inveterate as any described by the authors of the seventeenth century. Nevertheless, I must acknowledge that the most dreadful of these cases arose from neglect or from bad treatment. Some have supposed the severity of the disease to have been mitigated by its general diffusion; but I must rather attribute the relaxation of its violence to the superior method of cure now practised, which results from long and ample experience. It was customary, in times past, to suffer persons afflicted with Lues Venerea to die without attempting their relief, under the impression, that the complaint was contagious and incurable. But when a remedy was discovered, and the absurdity of the prejudice manifested, patients applied for advice and obtained it from better instructed physicians and surgeons; and to this it is principally owing that the disease is now less frequent, and also, that its different symptoms are milder in London than in any other place in Europe.

The great modern improvements in the treatment of Venereal affections appear chiefly to originate in the circumstances that medical men themselves are as liable to them as other

persons. I believe, that of the various diseases which "flesh is heir to," there is none now more easily and certainly cured than the Venereal ; but when neglected or improperly treated, it not only must become extremely obstinate, but may sometimes prove fatally incurable. It is indisputable, that the constitutions of many are seriously impaired, more by unskilful treatment than by the disease itself.

I shall now notice the various ways in which a healthy person may be infected by another who is unhealthy;—they may be reduced to the five following heads.

First, by coition between a healthy person and one who is infected with venereal symptoms of the genitals.

Secondly, by the coition of a healthy person with one who is apparently healthy : this is accounted for by the virus being concealed, without producing any bad symptoms. It frequently occurs that a woman who has been infected two or three days, imparts the complaint to men who have been connected with her, without any visible appearance of the disease upon herself. A man may infect a woman in the same manner. Such instances have been of almost daily occurrence in my practice.

Thirdly, by sucking ; in which case the nipples of the wet nurse must have been infected with the venereal virus, which will occasion ulcers on the child's mouth, lips, or nose.

Fourthly, by the exposure of any part of the surface of the body to the contact of the venereal virus ; such as by kissing, touching, and the like, especially if the parts have been excoriated, wounded, or ulcerated by any cause whatever. Thus, we frequently find that midwives and surgeons have been attacked by this disease after delivering women who were affected by it. I have likewise seen instances where persons have given themselves this complaint by rubbing the finger on the nostrils, lips, or eyelids, with which they had been touching their own diseased genitals, or any others, without previously washing their hands.

Fifthly, by a lancet or knife, infected with the venereal virus, and afterwards used for opening or wounding any part of the body.

CHAPTER III.

OF GONORRHEA OR CLAP.

Some time elapses after infection before the Gonorrhea or Clap makes its appearance; this being quicker with some, and slower with others, according to circumstances. It seldom appears until after twenty-four hours; and very rarely so late as after twelve days, but in general about the third or fourth day.

This complaint is a virulent discharge of matter from the mucous glands of the urethra, produced by a deposition of the poison in those parts. It is attended with more or less difficulty in evacuating the urine, which while it passes, occasions a scalding, pricking, burning sensation in the whole length of that canal, so as to prevent it from flowing in a continual stream; compelling it to come away in little squirts, which considerably increase the pain. This dysuria seldom or never produces fever, it being in general only a local

inflammation ; and, like others of the same kind, rarely affecting the whole system. The discharge is never semen, as some patients suppose ; for all matter discharged from the urethra in men, and the vagina in women, is nothing more than the mucous of those parts secreted in larger quantities than when in a healthy state, and changed in its colour and consistency by the venereal irritation. It seldom arises from an ulcer or ulcers in the passage : for out of the numerous patients I have cured of Gonorrhœa, I recollect not five who had ulcers in the urethra. Though both sexes are liable to this disease, yet the symptoms, diagnostics, and prognostics, differ greatly ; and it is requisite to ascertain this difference, in order to apply the best method of cure.

It is easy to conceive also, that different habits and constitutions require modes of treatment diametrically opposite ; I think, therefore, that in these cases greater attention should be paid to the nature of the constitution, than to the disease itself. The nature of the constitution is collected from the peculiar effects ; for the operation of the poison so varies, in different people, as to require a corresponding variety of treatment ;—a circumstance not sufficiently attended to by the generality of practitioners, who act as if each had a specific for every different symptom as it

appears in different constitutions. They forget, that though the disorder is the same, the constitution occasions the difference in its various external forms, and thereby creates, of course, the necessity for different modes of cure.

Proofs of the validity of this doctrine will be evident upon the slightest consideration. In inoculating for the small pox, we find very often great variableness in the disease, and this clearly cannot be owing to the matter by which the disease is communicated having any variableness of action; for the same matter, taken from the same pock, will produce in different habits, a disease of a totally different nature, complexion, and aspect, as to its mildness, or its malignity. It is therefore obvious, that the variations must arise from those constitutional dissimilarities which require as many different methods of cure.

It is precisely the same with the *venereal virus*; nor can any thing better illustrate the fallacy and folly of trusting to nostrums for the removal of a complaint which demands as great a variety of medicines, as any other affecting the human system.

From the opinion generally entertained of this species of the disorder,—I mean whatever shape it may assume, it always springs from the same source—it might be inferred, that as specifics are known for *some* stages of it, such specifics might be general in their application to *all*. But, however plausible this opinion may be in theory, it is not confirmed by practice.

Common inflammations are cured by irritable applications; irritable inflammations, on the contrary, are cured by soothing applications. In cases where irritability is highly excited, nothing should be attempted, either internally or externally, to stop the discharge, as that may be done without stopping the inflammation. I would recommend to effect, by appropriate remedies, a gradual alteration in the constitution, and thereby check or extinguish the disposition to action in the parts: but where this cannot be done with efficacy, it is better to let the action exhaust, and ultimately extinguish itself.

When the disease is so far subdued as to assume a mild form, its total eradication may be accomplished, either by internal remedies, or external applications.

If an external cure is attempted, violent

applications must be cautiously avoided, as they may revive the irritation. In this stage of the disorder, I would recommend gentle astringents: but if the disorder began mildly, and nothing indicative of the common or irritable inflammation appear, then an irritating injection may be used, which will occasion a temporary aggravation of the symptoms. But when this is discontinued, they will either abate or totally disappear. I would recommend astringents also in this case. In proportion as the symptoms of the Gonorrhea differ, or make it necessary, I would alternately recommend evacuants and astringents. Those evacuants which are of the purgative or diuretic kind, are to be preferred, as acting on the urinary passages mechanically. The body must, in all cases, be kept moderately open.

Injections, to suppress venereal inflammations in the urethra, are unquestionably useful: but, as the repetition of them depends on the symptoms, a proper degree of caution must be observed in this particular instance, lest their intended efficacy might be counteracted by irritation. The injections which I have found most efficacious are, the sedative, the emollient, and the astringent. Sedative injections may be composed of twelve or fourteen grains of

saccharum saturni in seven or eight ounces of rose or distilled water : this makes a good sedative astringent injection. Diluting liquors, as having a sedative effect, ought to be freely used, for they lessen the irritability and pain of the diseased parts ; and the vegetable mucilages of some seeds or plants, and emollient gums, by their impregnation with the patient's drink, mitigate the scalding, and enlarge the power of making water. Emollient injections are decidedly the best, where the inflammation is very high. Emollients may also be used externally, where the orifice of the urethra is so inflamed as to forbid the use of the syringe.

The influence of astringent injections extends no farther than to diminish the discharge, and gradually lessen it without increasing the inflammation. By this operation they complete the cure.

When the external parts, such as the prepuce, glands, and orifice of the urethra, are to a certain extent inflamed, poultices and fomentations are the best external applications. I have known mercurial ointment, with an emollient poultice over it, applied to the surfaces, where the progress of inflammation appeared : but this, unless in some very peculiar cases, I

cannot recommend, as it tends rather to increase than to diminish the evil to be removed.

Some practitioners have recommended the use of the oxymuriate of mercury for the cure of the Gonorrhea Virulenta, and I have been told of its removing the complaint in a few days. It is, however, a very uncertain remedy, and by far too dangerous to be trusted in the hands of any but the most skilful and experienced. I remember being called in, with the late Dr. Letsom, to a patient who had very nearly killed himself by taking this remedy for the cure of the clap. Whether he had taken the oxymuriate in too large a dose, or that it acted with so much violence from some peculiarity of constitution, we were not able to determine; but it was evident that its administration may be attended with most alarming and dangerous consequences. Many practitioners object to the use of injections, on account of their producing swelled testicle. But, where this is the case, I am confident, that in five out of six instances, it arises from the injection being either too strong, or improperly prepared; and this, I am sorry to say, too often occurs through the negligence of apprentices and shopmen, who, having no reputation at stake, care little whether the patient reco-

ver, or not. I have seen so much of this, that I have determined in future to prepare them myself, which is done with very little trouble or inconvenience.

I never advise a patient to use an injection, without keeping the testicles suspended either by a bag-truss or handkerchief. Immersing the parts in warm water is extremely useful, and often prevents any active inflammation; and in many cases where I have been fearful of using even weak injections, I have found warm milk and water very beneficial. It may be safely thrown up five or six times a day; and if it has no other good effect, it keeps the part clean and free from discharge.

The following case will fully demonstrate the beneficial effects of soothing injections, even in the inflammatory stage. A young gentleman applied to me shortly after the discharge made its appearance. He was then labouring under the unpleasant symptoms attending this troublesome complaint; at the same time he told me, that in former instances he had been so sickened with balsam of copaiba, cubebs, and the like, that he was determined to take no physic, and unless some application could be found to cure him, it should take its chance. I gave him an injection, contain-

ing two grains of *saccharum saturni* to the ounce of water, and a few drops of *laudanum*, desiring him to inject every two hours. He called in a few days to thank me, and said that he was quite well; although in former attacks his cure had been protracted for months, under the use of internal remedies.

By using the nitric acid, mild, sedative, and slightly astringent injections, I have cured a clap in three or four days, when other practitioners have taken one, two, and three months to effect a cure in the same patient. As an evidence of the correctness of this assertion, I shall here submit a case which came under my care only a few weeks since:—A noble lord consulted me on his case—strictures of the urethra, of several years duration. Of these I effected his complete cure; since which he applied to me for the cure of clap. He was greatly distressed at the circumstance, as he assured me that it would be five or six months before he should be cured, he having been frequently before in precisely the same situation; that he had been under the first surgical treatment, and he was never cured in less time. I told him to dismiss his fears, for I would engage to cure him in as many days. At this he smiled, and answered it would be impossible; but

to his great surprise the nitric acid and mild astringent injections effected his perfect cure in less than a week.

Cubebs has become a fashionable remedy for the cure of Gonorrhea; I have used it extensively, and the result of my experience is, that it is by no means so efficacious a remedy as many with which we were acquainted before this medicine came into vogue. I have no doubt, like many other fashionable remedies, it will be out of date in the course of a year or two, and cubebs again be sold at 3s. per pound, instead of the present extravagant price. The balsam of Copaiva is recommended by surgeons of eminence: but when we consider the nauseous, sickening flavour of this medicine, and the strong scent it imparts to the breath, few would be inclined to take so disagreeable a remedy; especially when we have a better medicine in the nitric acid. This, properly prepared, is not only the pleasantest to the palate, but the most efficacious remedy with which I am acquainted. The balsam is also so uncertain in its effects. I have frequently known patients fancy themselves perfectly cured, and in less than a week mortified by a return of the most violent nature: and this repeatedly. I have determined never to recommend the use of this remedy, not only on account of its un-

certainly in the cure, but also because it frequently produces a much worse complaint, I mean an affection of the kidneys: in which opinion, I have no doubt many of my readers will concur with me.

When the bladder partakes of irritation or inflammation, I would recommend opiate clysters; the warm bath—bleeding; more especially if the patient be of a corpulent, gross habit of body; and also leeches applied to the perineum.

ON THE CURE OF GONORRHEA IN WOMEN.

In females the cure of Gonorrhœa differs little from the mode pursued with men. The disease being milder, the symptoms are less numerous, which arises from the parts not being so liable to inflammation; hence the cure is more easily perfected. When the disease is in the vagina only, it is easily cured; but when a titillation is felt on the external orifice of the vagina, with pain, redness, and preternatural tumour succeeding after the second or fourth day, particularly near the lower part of the aperture of the labia, heat and pain of the same part also in making water, with a weeping of puriform matter from the passage,

whey and small diluting drinks should be taken, together with a vegetable diet, demulcents, and cooling laxatives. All high seasoned viands are to be prohibited. Demulcents, linseed or mallow decoction, gum arabic, tragacanth, and the like, may be prescribed.

Bathe the parts frequently with warm milk and water, or weak goulard water; bleeding, in the beginning, from ℥ vj. to viij. in full plethoric constitutions, where the inflammation is high, may be very necessary. Afterwards, when the inflammation is totally subdued, and the virulence of the disease is considerably abated, astringent injections, if properly used, will soon effect a perfect cure.

OF THE TREATMENT OF CHORDEE.

Bleeding I have found useful, and the application of leeches to the parts. Relief is also obtained by exposing the penis to the steam of water in which water-cresses have been boiled. Poultices and fomentations, with the addition of camphor, I have found of great service; mercurial ointment afterwards applied to the parts, will promote the absorbtion of lymph. In relieving the chordee which arises from spasm, I have recommended the cicuta and bark with effect.

OF GLEET.

Gleets derive their origin from different causes ; but more frequently from clap. After the inflammatory stage of gonorrhea is passed, a continual running is kept up, unattended with pain in passing water ; this running is frequently more difficult to cure than in the inflammatory stage. It may be attributed, I think, in a great measure, to the erroneous supposition that gleets are not infectious ; but those arising from (or which are the remains of) gonorrhea, I am decidedly of opinion are.

ON THE CURE OF GLEET.

The cure of Gleet may be considered under two heads : that which is the result of a clap, and that which arises from too much indulgence in sexual intercourse. That which proceeds from stricture, will be more properly spoken of when we come to the treatment of that particular and important subject. Gleet, which is the remains of a clap, is sometimes extremely difficult to cure : yet I have generally found it give way to proper remedies, unless in unmanageable patients, who, as I observed before, consider it as not contagious, and persist in sexual commerce, which, I am confident, much retards the cure.

When the case is obstinate, the mode of treatment should be often changed, not persisting in it any longer than a week, from which no benefit has been derived. The remedies which I have found most beneficial are the tinct. lyttæ, conjoined with æther. rectificat. using at the same time an injection, with the oxymuriate of mercury gr. ij. to ℥ viij. of rose water; if these do not succeed, I give the 20th part of a grain of the oxymuriate of mercury at bed-time, every night and morning, using at the same time a bougie immersed in balsam of copaiba daily. I have also found pills composed of rhubarb, mixed up with turpentine, effect a cure, when all other remedies have failed. The nitric acid is also a powerful auxiliary in the cure of Gleet, and more particularly that which originates in excessive sexual indulgence—the second class which I had proposed to notice. In cases of this description, I find sea-bathing and the injecting the seawater diluted, seldom fail of a cure; taking, at the same time, small doses of the nitric acid: of course, the patient must abstain, during the progress of cure, from intercourse with the other sex.

CHAPTER IV.

CONCERNING STRICTURES.

Strictures in the urethra produce almost constantly diseases in the parts beyond them ; that is, in the parts of the urethra between the stricture and the bladder. They bring on, in most cases, a gleet, and often a considerable distention of the part of the canal beyond the Stricture ; also inflammation and ulceration. These generate disease in the contiguous parts, as in Cowper's glands, the prostate, and the surrounding cellular membrane ; forming abscesses there, and at last ulceration, for the purpose of making a new passage for the urine. The bladder is also affected, and sometimes the ureters, with the pelvis of the kidneys ; and, in some cases, the kidneys themselves. All these are effects of every permanent Stricture or obstruction to the urine. Some of them are methods which nature takes to relieve the parts from immediate complaints ; such is the increase of the urethra beyond the Stricture ; and such the

enlargement of the ureters and pelvis of the kidneys, which is only to be regarded as an accommodation of the parts themselves to the immediate consequence of the obstruction, which is the accumulation of urine. IN THE PERMANENT STRICTURE, the patient seldom complains till he can hardly procure a passage for the urine, and frequently has a considerable degree of stranguary, and even other symptoms that happen in stone and gravel, which are therefore too frequently supposed to be the causes of the complaint. The disease generally occupies no great length of the passage: at least in most of the cases that I have seen, it extended no further in breadth than if the part had been surrounded with a piece of pack-thread; and in many it had a good deal of that appearance. I have, however, seen the urethra irregularly contracted for above an inch in length, owing to its coats, or internal membrane, being irregularly thickened and forming a winding canal. A stricture does not arise, in all cases, from an equal contraction of the urethra all around; but in some from a contraction of one side, which probably has given the idea of its having arisen from an ulcer on that side, which often renders it difficult to pass a bougie. The contracted part is whiter than any other part of the urethra, and is harder

in its consistence. In some cases, there are more Strictures than one. I have seen half a dozen in one urethra, some of which were more contracted than others; and, indeed many urethras that have a stricture, have small tightnesses in other parts of them; this we learn from successive resistance felt in passing the bougie.

Every part of the urethra is not equally subject to Strictures, for there appears to be one part which is much more liable to them than the whole of the urethra besides; I mean, immediately about the bulbous part. We find them, however, sometimes on this side of the bulb, but very seldom beyond it. I never saw a Stricture in that part of the urethra which passes through the prostate gland. The bulb, besides that it is the most frequent seat of this disease, has likewise Strictures formed there of the worst kind. They are generally slow in forming, it being often several years from the first indication of their presence before they become very troublesome. The same Stricture is not at all times equally bad, for we find that in warm weather it is not nearly so troublesome as in cold. These changes are often very quick. A cold day, even an hour of cold weather, shall produce a change in them, and the same Stricture is almost always worse in winter than in summer. However, this

observation is not free from exceptions; I knew one case that was always worse in the summer. There are other circumstances besides cold that make a Stricture worse:—A gentleman who had an ague, always found the Stricture increased during the fit. It is also increased by drinking, by violent exercise, and by the retention of urine, after an inclination to void it has been felt. This last cause is often so great, as to produce a total stoppage for a time. It is sometimes rendered much worse by a calculus passing from the bladder, of the formation of which this stricture was probably the cause. If the calculus remain in the passage, a total stoppage of urine will be the consequence; the cause of such obstruction can hardly be known at the time, and if ascertained, it could not be remedied without an operation.

It is impossible to say what is the cause of that alteration in the structure of the urethra which diminishes the canal.

I knew a young gentleman who had a very bad Stricture. He had had several gonorrhœas, but they were so slight that they seldom lasted a week, nor in any of them did they extend beyond the frænum; but the Stricture was about the membranous part. Cases of this kind occur every day; they are never found to come on during the venereal inflammation, nor till some

time after the infection is gone. There have been thirty, and sometimes forty years between the cure of a gonorrhoea and the beginning of a Stricture, the health being all that time perfectly good. If they arose in consequence of the venereal inflammation, we might expect to find them of some extent, because the venereal inflammation extends some way; and we should also expect to find them most frequently in that part of the urethra which is commonly the seat of the venereal disease. By many, they have been supposed to arise from the healing of ulcers in the urethra; but, as I never saw an ulcer in these parts, except in consequence of a Stricture, and as I do not believe there ever *is* an ulcer in a case of common gonorrhoea, I cannot subscribe to that opinion.

The grossest imposition ever attempted to be practised upon the credulity of the ignorant, is the promise of a cure of Strictures by the use of internal remedies alone: this is a contemptible attempt to extort money from the suffering patient, without affording him any thing like a cure. To effect it by this means, is totally impossible. The truth is, no permanent Stricture *can* be cured but by the use of the bougie, by the application of the kali, by the lunar caustic, or by an operation for that purpose. Of the bougie, Daran wrote

professedly on the diseases for which it is a cure, and also of the manner of preparing it; but he has introduced so much absurdity into his descriptions of the diseases, the mode of treatment, and of the power and composition of his bougies, as to create the greatest disgust. When Daran published his observations on the bougie, every surgeon set to work to discover the composition, and each conceived that he had found it out, from the bougie he had made producing precisely the effects described by Daran. It never occurred to them that an extraneous body of the same shape and consistence, would do the same thing; therefore, the puffs about medicated bougies are absurd, ridiculous, and an imposition on the public.

CHAPTER V.

ON THE TREATMENT AND CURE OF PERMANENT
STRICTURES.

THE cure of the true permanent Stricture can only be accomplished by local applications. The cure is either a dilatation of the contracted part, or a destruction of it by escharotics. The dilatation is performed by the bougie, and this is seldom or never more than a temporary cure: for although the passage may be dilated sufficiently for the urine to pass, yet there is always the original tendency to contraction, which generally recurs sooner or later. The cure by dilatation is, I imagine, principally mechanical, when performed by bougies, the power of which is that of a wedge. Their ultimate effect, however, is not always so simple as that of a wedge upon inanimate matter; for pressure produces action of the animal powers, either to adapt the parts to their new position, or to recede by ulceration. Thus we arrive at two very different effects by

the bougie, which, consequently, we are enabled to apply with intentions equally different; one to produce dilatation, the other ulceration. But this last is not always so readily atchieved. In many cases, where the Stricture is very considerable, much trouble is given by occasional spasms, which will either resist the bougie altogether, or only let a very small one pass; though, at another time, they will admit one of larger dimensions. In such cases, I have sometimes contrived to make the point of the bougie enter, by rubbing the perinæum externally with the finger of one hand, while I passed the bougie on with the other. This, though it does not always succeed, yet is worth the trial. In such cases of spasm in the Stricture I have often succeeded, letting the bougie remain a little while close to the Stricture, and then passing it on; this mode so often succeeds, that it should always be attempted, when the bougie does not pass, or only passes occasionally.

The time that each bougie ought to remain in the passage, must be determined by the patient, for it should never give pain, if possible. To go beyond this point is to destroy the intention, to increase the very symptoms that are meant to be relieved, and to produce irritation, which, for a time, renders the further application of the bougie

improper. The best time to let it remain in the passage is when the patient has least to do; or in the morning, while he is in bed, provided he can introduce it himself. The bougie should be increased in size, according to the facility with which the stricture dilates, and the ease with which the patient bears the dilatation. If the parts are very firm, or very irritable, the increase of the size of the bougie should be slow, gradually stealing upon the parts, and allowing them to adapt their structure to the increased size; but if the sensibility of the parts will allow of it, the increase of the size of the bougie may be somewhat quicker, though never more quick than the patient can bear with ease. The increase should be continued till a bougie of the largest size passes freely; nor should this be laid aside till after three weeks or a month, in order to habituate the dilated parts to their new position, or to take off the habit of contracting from the part as much as possible. But, as was observed before, the permanency of this cure can seldom be relied upon. The only permanent cure that I know of, is when the Stricture is destroyed by the application of the kali, as practised and recommended by the late Mr. Wheatley.

When we consider the fatal effects that so often follow the application of the Lunar

Caustic, it becomes a paramount duty to endeavour to relieve those who place confidence in our skill, without having recourse to such a dangerous remedy; particularly when we have, even if the Stricture be so far established and so complicated as not to give way to bougies, so much safer and much less painful a remedy in the Kali. It frequently happens that, where the stream of urine is large, we are led to suppose that a middle-sized bougie will pass through the Stricture, and upon trial, fail, not only in passing this, but a much smaller one. In this case, I have generally succeeded by turning its point to the side of the urethra, where the aperture lies: but as there is much difficulty in ascertaining on which side the aperture *actually* lies, I generally use a smaller bougie than I suppose may be required: and if, when the point comes to the Stricture, it do not pass, I withdraw the bougie a little, and turning it round also a little, to alter its direction, I again pass on to the Stricture, and not succeeding, I still persist in the same way, trying the different sides of the urethra, till I eventually find out the aperture. But frequently, even where this has failed, I have succeeded by extending the penis with the left hand, and passing the bougie gently along with

the right, being very cautious to use no force : but on finding that it does not readily pass, I withdraw again and again, till, as it were, I insinuate it into the strictured part. I cannot help mentioning in this place, that I think the great cause of Strictures not being cured, arises either from a want of sufficient perseverance on the part of the surgeon, or from the patients themselves being allowed to use the bougie ; by which means they often make false passages, and bring irreparable mischief upon themselves and discredit on their surgeon.

A little yet remains to be said on the introduction of the bougie, and on the application and virtues of the Kali. Success in the introduction of a bougie, is not always to be anticipated from its having been once or twice passed. Sometimes it can be introduced on one day, and not on the next, notwithstanding a series of attempts ; and thus it may continue for weeks, and, unfortunately, even for years.

Among other deplorable instances of this nature, might be mentioned the case of a gentleman afflicted with Strictures upwards of fifteen years. He had consulted most of the eminent professional men in this metropolis, none of whom succeeded in passing the finest description of bougie into the bladder (*three*

times excepted) during that long and painful period. At last, however, I had the good fortune to cure him, by the application of the Kali, in the course of six weeks; at the expiration of which, a full-sized metallic bougie, number 12, was passed easily into the bladder. To this instance might be added hundreds of others; all tending irresistibly to prove the decided superiority of the mode of treatment which I have adopted, and pursue, over the common process of dilatation. Can this one case, taken, not as the most curious, but as a fair specimen of many other cures, be too strongly impressed on the mind of every patient who is anxious to free himself from so dreadful a calamity;—Fifteen years of life, perhaps the most valuable, lost in fruitless efforts at dilatation, the individual labouring all the time under constant uneasiness, and the quick repetition of excruciating agonies; his existence frequently on the very verge of dissolution, from the total suppression of a vital function; and, after all, set free and restored to present comfort, and the prospect of future happiness, by the operation of the Kali, in the course of a few weeks!

Mr. HUNTER, whose abilities and experience are above praise, and who understood

well, and practised the mode of dilatation, had no absolute faith in the permanency of a cure effected by that system. He thought it seldom to be depended upon. But, let it be particularly observed, that at the period when that skilful surgeon flourished, the use of the Kali, now proved to be so beneficial in removing one of the greatest physical evils which afflict mankind, was not known. Had he lived to witness its discovery and its effects, his great name would not be wanting in its recommendation and praise. There is not one branch in all the wide extent of chirurgical and medical science which has received so many valuable improvements, as that relating to the treatment and cure of the disorders of the urethra; and more particularly of those which arise from Stricture. For myself, it has been my happiness to be so peculiarly fortunate in my experience and practice, that I scarcely know of any case, however complicated or long standing, which I should not confidently undertake to cure, with the sovereign aid of the Kali, in a very short period; probably, in most instances, in a few weeks. I am not proposing any mode of cure founded on the exclusive operation of some specific medicine, which I keep with mysterious secrecy; I openly state the remedy which

I have found to be most salutary, and I rest my merits in the efficient administration of it, upon a long and various experience in this country and on the continent. I repeat, that I have found my application so powerful, that complaints which have long resisted all other systems, have readily yielded to mine. The merit of having first introduced the Kali is due to the late Mr. WHEATLEY; but the experience of a long practice has enabled me to achieve great improvements in the mode of its application. A description of the peculiarities of this improved mode, can scarcely be expected here. Indeed, it would be vain to attempt the particularization of the process of a beneficial operation, which can only be acquired, and understood, by repeated practice.*

* To those who are afflicted with this complaint, I recommend the perusal of my "Practical Observations on Strictures of the Urethra and Rectum," in which the superior efficacy of this remedy is illustrated by numerous and highly important cases, in some of which, Strictures, of from ten to twenty years' duration, have been totally removed in a few weeks, thereby establishing its superiority over every other method hitherto practised.—This Pamphlet may be had of the same booksellers whose names are attached to the title page of this work.

CHAPTER VI.

OF THE SWELLED TESTICLE, PHYMOSIS, AND
PARAPHYMOSIS.

In the course of my practice I have treated it invariably as common inflammation, namely, general and local : by ordering bleeding, purging, fomentation, and poulticing, and directing the patient to the immediate use of the bag-truss. When the inflammation was subdued, but not before, I ordered mercurials, and this only when the induration remained. Cases of the swelled testicle require particular care and attention on the part of the practitioner. The following, and fatal case, shows too evidently the danger of incautiously employing inexperienced persons, totally unacquainted with the nature and cure of this complaint.—A Quaker gentleman, who resided in Holywell-street, Shoreditch, contracted a gonorrhea. To prevent exposure he hired apartments near East Smithfield, and placed himself under the care of a gentleman, who has had for several years these words written over his door: “Just arrived from France.” The gentleman had been under his care about three

weeks, when he was afflicted with a swelled testicle. His servant was sent to inform the doctor of this circumstance, and he prescribed mercurial ointment, and sent a box of pills, and a bottle of diet drink, with directions to rub the ointment on the swelling twice a day, and to take two of the pills every night and morning, and half a pint of the diet drink after each dose. The consequence of so improper an application as mercurial ointment to the testicles, in a high state of inflammation, must be obvious to every medical man. The inflammation and swelling increased to such a degree, that in less than ten days after the mercurial application, the testicles became immensely large. It is impossible for a patient to be in this situation without the accession of fever. The servant seeing the dreadful state to which his master was reduced, applied, without his consent, (the gentleman refusing to be seen by any medical man) to a neighbouring surgeon, and related the case; but, notwithstanding that all necessary applications were used, the inflammation terminated, like most inflammations that have been in the beginning improperly treated, in a mortification, which, in a few days, closed his existence. Thus he fell the victim of a false shame, and a want of skill in him who undertook his cure.

In old and obstinate swellings of the testicles, when every other method had failed, I have found electricity a most powerful remedy. Take the following instance of its salutary effect.

Capt. R., of the Navy, had been afflicted with a swelled testicle for nearly two years, occasioned by striking it against the pommel of his saddle, when hunting with the Earl of Derby's hounds near Epsom. On his returning home after the day's sport, he felt considerable pain in his right testicle, which obliged him to retire to bed earlier than usual. During the night the pain and inflammation greatly increased, and in the morning the swelling was so large that he could not quit his bed. The surgeon generally in attendance on his family, had recourse to bleeding, purging, and fomentation; but, notwithstanding all his endeavours, the swelling continued until it became indurated—the inflammation and agony were, however, almost entirely subdued. In this state the testicle remained three months, when Capt. R. became quite uneasy, and desired further advice. He consulted in rotation almost every surgeon in London, of any eminence; but, notwithstanding all their endeavours, the testicle continued undiminished, either

in extent or hardness. Twelve months had now elapsed since his first attack, and to add to his distress, the penis began to swell; in a few weeks it lay on the scrotum in an oedematous state, entirely lost as to all the purposes of virility. He now consulted his uncle, Dr. R., but the Doctor found that his former medical attendants had exhausted every remedy at all likely to procure relief. The Doctor tried some of the remedies again, hoping that although, in the first instance, they had failed, on the second application they might prove more fortunate. He was, however, sadly disappointed; the family were extremely uneasy at the situation of their relative, and another uncle, a banker in London, recommended him to me. They came together; and I found, after hearing their statement of the case, and learning what had been done, that every rational plan of cure had been exhausted, and that I was left without the means of affording him relief. At last it struck me that electricity had not been tried in this case, and I told him, that that was the only remedy I could propose. He was desirous to try any probable or possible chance of success. I measured the swelling with a piece of tape, to ascertain more accurately what progress I was making in the reduction of its size. Sparks and moderate shocks were drawn from and passed

through the testicle, for the space of an hour. I directed him to come to me three or four times a week; he continued under my care for a month, when I began to observe a diminution of the swelling, and I then flattered myself that I should succeed in its speedy reduction; but after another month had elapsed, during which the electric shocks were almost daily passed through the diseased testicle, I found by my measure that very little, if any, progress towards a cure had been made. Recollecting, however, a similar case recorded by Mr. BIRCH, in his excellent little work on electricity, in which he found that notwithstanding the swelling did not abate while electricity was used, yet that *after* it was discontinued for a month or so, the disease gradually disappeared, I requested Capt. R. to return to the country, there to remain two months, and then let me see him again. I did not see him for five months; when he called to inform me, that, as I had predicted, the swelling had begun to diminish. At the expiration of two months more, the disease totally disappeared; and he found himself in all respects as well as he had ever been in his life.

The prepuce frequently becomes affected by the inner skin yielding more than the outer, it having a kind of neck or ring, where the outer skin naturally terminates. From the distension of the parts in a state of tumefaction, it becomes almost impossible to bring it back over the penis, so as to invert it, and expose the sore on the inside. This state of the prepuce, unless particularly attended to, is often productive of dangerous consequences, especially when the chancres are behind the glans. On the contrary, if the prepuce is loose, wide, and accustomed to be kept back in its sound state, or is pulled back to dress the chancres, and allowed to continue in that situation until tumefaction takes place, it acquires the name of paraphymosis. Or if the prepuce be pulled forcibly back, after it is swelled, it is then brought from the state of a phymosis to a paraphymosis. The last described situation of the prepuce has by far the worst kind of symptoms; especially when it is changed from phymosis to paraphymosis. In many instances I have found inflammation arising from this kind of Stricture, not only to affect that part of the penis which is included in the prepuce, but attacking the whole body of the penis itself; and thus frequently producing adhesions, and

even mortifications, in the cells of the corpora cavernosa, either of which must inevitably destroy for ever the distensibility of those parts, and give to the penis a curvilinear direction, even in its involuntary erections. This sometimes takes place through the whole of the cellular substance, till at last nothing is left of the penis but a short and hardened remnant.

The following will serve as an illustration.—It may serve also to caution the unsuspecting and credulous, how they trust to any nostrums for the cure of a disease, which requires the concentration of great knowledge and skill for its eradication.

A young man, a pewterer, who had contracted the Venereal Disease, was infected with several small chancres on the *glans penis* and prepuce, for the cure of which he had recourse to a certain syrup. After using it for some time, without finding the least benefit, he resorted to another nostrum of equal celebrity, in the form of pills. But these seemed to have no salutary effect; and as the chancres increased in size, the prepuce swelled more. The inflammation becoming so great as to cause a tremendous phymosis, accompanied by severe pain, he waited on the gentleman, under whose sanction these remedies were sold, for further

and better advice. The person to whom he was introduced, prescribed an ointment of equal parts of bees-wax and oil, as the best means of reducing the inflammation, and the pills were directed to be continued as usual. In this course he persisted, until the inflammation terminated in a mortification, which destroyed the whole body of the penis, and had spread itself over a small part of the left testicle, when the pain was so intolerable as to deprive him of rest for three nights.

At this period I was called in, and, by proper fomentations and poultices, with powerful doses of opium and bark, and with appropriate regimen, I effected his cure in little less than a month. But his manhood was completely annihilated; the mortification leaving only a small inflexible stump, of about half an inch in length. It will, therefore, be seen how necessary it is to guard against so melancholy a catastrophe, which at once destroys the power of communicating or receiving the sexual gratifications. A firm manly resolution to run no dangerous risks, will be the only safeguard against such a mortifying calamity; but when passion overcomes prudence, common sense dictates the speediest possible application for the assistance of medical science.

CHAPTER VII.

OF CHANCRES, BUBOES, AND WARTS.

OF CHANCRE.

This species of the disease is caught, like gonorrhea, by a connexion between the sexes; yet any part of the body is liable to infection, especially if the cuticle be very thin.

It is often contracted in men on the frænum, glans penis, and prepuce, and sometimes on the fore part of the scrotum; it is longer in making its appearance than the gonorrhea. If the frænum or prepuce are affected, the disorder appears sooner than in the common skin of the penis or the scrotum. These parts being formed of a cellular membrane, of course afford an easier passage for the extravasated juices.

I have had cases under my care, where the chancre has appeared in thirty, sometimes in twenty-four hours; and in others, where it did not appear for two months. When it begins on the frænum, or near it, that part is frequently entirely destroyed, or a hole ulcerated through it. It begins with itching, and ends in pain; the surface of the prepuce is frequently exco-

riated, and afterwards ulcerated. If the venereal poison should be applied where the cuticle is more dense than that of the glans penis, or frænum, then it commonly appears in the form of a pimple, which grows to a scab. When the disease partakes of the inflammation peculiar to the habit, it becomes more diffused, and is frequently productive of phymosis, and sometimes paraphymosis, which contribute much to retard the cure. On the first appearance of chancres, it is necessary to pay the strictest attention to their progress on the parts, as they are a kind of comment on, or explanation of the constitution. If the inflammation spread rapidly, it shews a constitution naturally inclined to inflammation. In proportion to the violence of the pain, it discovers a propensity to irritation in the constitution: and where they form sloughs, they have an unequivocal tendency to mortification. As these marks point out the constitution, so do they the treatment. When there is waste of substance, either from ulceration or sloughing, and when that loss of substance has been considerable, a profuse bleeding is no unusual accompaniment; especially if the ulcer be on the glans, as the adhesive inflammation does not take place to unite the veins of the glans, so as to prevent their cavity being exposed, and the blood is allowed to escape from the corpus spon-

giosum urethræ. The ulcers or sloughs often go as deep as the corpus cavernosum penis, where the same thing frequently happens.

CHANCRES IN WOMEN.

From the simplicity of the genital construction in women, this disorder in them is less complicated than in men. When the matter is introduced into the vagina, it there irritates a secreting surface; but when lodged in the inside of the skin, of the labia or nymphæ, those parts are only affected with gonorrhea, but yet are capable of ulceration. Ulcerations are much more frequent in women than in men: for this reason, that the surface on which they can form is much larger. We find them on the edge of the labia; sometimes on the outside, and even on the perinæum. Ulcers formed on the inside of the labia, are never allowed to dry or scab; but on the outside they are liable to have the matter dry on them, which forms a scab, similar to those on the body of the penis or scrotum. The venereal matter from such sores is very apt to run down the perinæum to the anus, as in a gonorrhea, and excoriates the parts, especially about the anus, where the skin is thin, and often produces Chancres in those parts.

Chancres I have observed in the vagina; these I take to have arisen from the spreading of the ulcers on the inside of the labia.

CURE OF CHANCRES.

There are two kinds of treatment for the cure of Chancres: the object of one is to destroy them by means of escharotics, the other to extinguish the venereal irritation, by the specific remedy for that poison. Let it be remembered that in the cure of Chancres, we have two objects in view—the cure of the Chancre, and the prevention of a contamination of the habit.

The first is affected by mercury, either internally through the circulation, or externally in dressings, or in both ways, as the nature of the case may make it necessary. The second, the preservation of the constitution, is accomplished by shortening the duration of the Chancre, which consequently contracts the time of absorption; also by internal medicines, which, in their administration, should always bear a proportion to the continuation of the absorption.

TO DESTROY A CHANCRE.

This can only be done on the first appearance of it, before the surrounding parts catch

the contamination. It may be done by caustic or incision; but experience justifies me in recommending the lunar caustic, which prevents the hemorrhage from the cells of the glans. I have continued this treatment till the sore began to assume a red appearance, the certain indication of health; in this state it will heal as rapidly, in most cases, as any other sore produced by caustic. In cases which were of rare occurrence, where the wound did not soon heal, I ordered a mercurial lotion to be constantly applied to the wound, and one grain of *mercurius calcinatus* to be taken every night and morning, to avert any constitutional injury.

OF BUBOES.

Venereal Bubo, when the complaint is in the penis, appear in the absorbent glands of the groin. Where Gonorrhea is the cause of Bubo, the groins are equally affected. I have known instances where a chancre on one side of the prepuce, occasioned a Bubo on the other side, which, I think, is a strong proof that the absorbents either anastomose or decussate each other. If the chancre be on the *frænum*, or on the middle of the penis, between the two sides, then it is uncertain which side will be

affected. The glands of the groin not being always situated precisely alike, the course of the absorbent vessels will vary accordingly. I have seen a venereal Bubo rather low on the thigh, which arose from a chancre on the penis; though in other instances, I have often seen it as high as the lower part of the belly, before Poupart's ligament, and sometimes near the pubes. Each of these situations may lead to some variations in the method of cure, to which it may be proper to attend.

OF BUBOES IN WOMEN.

It might be supposed that what has been said of this affection of the lymphatic glands in the male, would be equally applicable to the female, so that there could be nothing exclusively peculiar to female cases. But the seat of absorption is more extensive in women, and the course also of some of the absorbents is different; whence there are three situations for Buboes in women, two of which are quite different from those in men; and these I suspect belong to the absorbents: the third is similar in male and female. When chancres occur forwards, near the *meatus urinarius*, *nymphæ*, *clitoris*, *labia*, or *mons veneris*, then it is found that the matter absorbed is carried

along one or both of the round ligaments, and in those ligaments the Buboes are formed, just before they enter the abdomen, and, as I believe, without going farther. I should suspect that these Buboes are not glandular, but inflamed absorbents: and if so, the opinion is strengthened, that it is only an external part that is thus affected. When the chancres are situated far back, and near to or in the perinæum, absorbed matter is carried forwards along the angle between the labium and the thigh to the glands in the groin, and often, in this course, there are found small Buboes in the absorbents, similar to those on the penis in men; and when the effects of the poison do not rest here, it often produces a Bubo in the groin, as in man.

OF THE CURE OF BUBOES IN MEN BY RESOLUTION.

If the Bubo be in the groin, I have always recommended the application of mercurial ointment on the thigh, the surface of which will absorb as much mercury as will be sufficient to resolve the Bubo, without contaminating the constitution: but in cases where the resolution was not effected so speedily as was hoped for, I enlarged the operation of the friction on the surface, by ordering the ointment to be rubbed on the leg also.

OF THE RESOLUTION OF BUBOES IN WOMEN.

In the preceding observations on the seat of Buboës in women, it was remarked, that two situations of this affection were peculiar to them. In the first and second situations, especially in the first, the surface of absorption beyond the Bubo is much too small to be depended upon for its capability of receiving a sufficient quantity of mercury to produce the resolution: but in the second, that is between the labia and thigh, the mercury may be applied about the anus and posteriors, as all the absorbents of those parts most probably pass that way. We know, at least, that they do not pass into the pelvis by the anus, but go by the groin. Other means of introducing mercury must be adopted, according to circumstances; yet it will be proper to rub in on these surfaces as much as possible. Buboës cannot always be removed by resolution, as they will sometimes terminate by suppuration. The inflammation is, in some cases, great, and the suppuration comparatively small. When a Bubô is of a large size, caustics are the proper applications for its dispersion: when it is small, the lancet effects the same object, in which case I prefer it. When I have operated by caustic, I preferred the Lapis Sep-

ticus, which I consider the best. I have ordered the mercurial course to be continued until the Bubo was quite healed ; but when there seemed an obstinacy of the complaint, or an indisposition to heal, I have always recommended (when the venereal action appeared to be destroyed) a milk diet, country air, and the decoction of sarsaparilla with mezereon. In other cases, when there were symptoms of a scrophulous tendency, I have advised the use of the warm sea-bath, which I have, in all cases, found to produce considerable beneficial results.

OF WARTS.

Warts are excrescences from the cutis, or from tumors forming upon it. At first they do not enlarge their bases, but rise higher and higher. They possess a self-augmenting power : for rising above the surface, on which their basis does not increase, they expand in a round thick substance, which becomes gradually rougher. This structure often makes them liable to great irritation from friction, and to very painful and sometimes profuse bleedings. These excrescences are considered by many not simply as consequences of the venereal poison, but as affections of a specific character and disposition. Recourse has been had to mercury for their removal—and that mode of treatment has been

asserted to be the proper method of cure. Such an effect of mercury I have never witnessed, although given in sufficient quantity to have cured in the same persons recent chancres, and sometimes a confirmed lues. The knife and escharotics are not always necessary when they shoot up high, and are small at the neck; the scissars are most expeditious in removing them: but where I have found patients alarmed at the names of knife or scissars (which is not unfrequently the case,) I have adopted a mild and efficacious substitute, by using silk thread, tying it round the neck of them. But whatever means may be applied, I deem it indispensably necessary to touch the base with a caustic, such as metallic salts, Lapis Septicus, the 'savin leaves and lapis calaminaris mixed, which are among the best stimulants I know; they seldom or never fail of effecting a complete eradication. I prefer this to the knife, scissars, ligature, or any other application, as I have found but one instance of its proving unsuccessful. On this subject I insert the following letter from a Nobleman in the neighbourhood of Grosvenor Square:—

“SIR,—Some time ago I had an imprudent connection, by which I contracted venereal chancres on the *glans penis*, accompanied with

a phymosis. I put myself under the care of my surgeon, who attended me for some time, but the cure not appearing to be any thing advanced, he performed the operation for the phymosis, by slitting the prepuce nearly its whole length; when he discovered a great number of warts upon the glans, and round the nut. Mercury was exhibited in various forms, but the warts increased in size as well as number: two or three of them were therefore cut off with a pair of scissars, and their base touched with caustic. In the night they bled profusely, and I tied my handkerchief round them, permitting it to remain in that state till I went the next day to get them dressed. In about ten days or a fortnight, little warts began to make their appearance over the whole divided prepuce, and those that had been removed grew again. At this time I was obliged to quit London, to go to Paris, on some urgent business. About a fortnight after I arrived there I found two buboes forming, one in each groin. A French physician and surgeon were consulted who unitedly recommended a salivation, which I underwent. In three months the buboes and chancres were completely healed, but the warts still remained, notwithstanding every means used for their eradication, such as caustics,

scissars, ligatures, powder of savin, &c. &c. I have now returned about twelve months, and am at present under the care of the family surgeon, from whom I have been taking, for the last six months, an alternative pill every night, with a quart bottle of strong decoction of sarsaparilla every day, but without finding myself any better. The warts are now grown so large and painful, that I am under the necessity of keeping my penis constantly suspended; and if any of the former applications are used, they put me to such torture, that existence has become almost insupportable—even a little calomel and spermaceti ointment occasions great pain. It is now full four years that I have been troubled with these warts: and so many gentlemen of professional skill have failed in my cure, that I almost despair of ever getting relieved from them. If you think you can be of any service to me, I will thank you to favor me with an answer, and I will wait on you at any time you may please to appoint.

“ I am, Sir, yours, &c. &c.

“ W.”

On perusing the above case, it clearly appeared to me that the continuance of the warts was not owing to any venereal disposition; but that the parts had acquired a peculiar diseased mode of

action which occasioned the warts, and that mercury had no power to destroy this action. His case justified my opinion. Having, when a boy, been much plagued with warts on my hands, I recollected getting rid of them, by the advice of a nurse, who directed me to take a bit of raw beef to rub the warts with, and to press its juices on them; tying a fresh piece of beef on the hand at night, till they disappeared, which happened in less than two months. An idea suggested itself to me, that the same remedy might be successful in this case. I therefore ordered my patient to apply the beef as before directed, prescribing at the same time the following mixture, as his strength was greatly reduced—*R Syr. Cort: aurant; unc; dimid Tinct; Cort. Peruv. drachm; Sex; Decoc. Cort; Peruv; unc; Septem; misce; ft mistura cujus capiat cochl. iiij. sexta quaque hora*—when, to his great satisfaction and astonishment, he was completely relieved from every one of the warts in less than ten weeks.

CHAPTER VIII.

ON ERUPTIONS AND NODES.

I am now to consider the eruption and nodous affection, when they appear at a late period.

This period is arbitrary ; it may be within six, seven, eight, ten, or more months, or at the distance of as many years, from the original receipt of infection. As in other cases of secondary symptoms, so in these, the fomes morbi having acquired by time a superior degree of acrimony or exaltation, at length completes its fermentation; and having gained sufficient strength to manifest its true nature, a venereal eruption, or node, with its usual concomitants, is the consequence. These symptoms may also appear either singly or in combination. Thus the same person who has venereal blotches, may have also a node or two, and an ophthalmia; or he may have only a node or an eruption, and so on. But be the symptom what it may, the attack is, for the most part, unexpected and sudden; the patient himself, from the length of time which has elapsed since his supposed cure, having no suspicion of latent venereal mischief; and the progress of such a symptom is generally rapid. Thus, if an eruption takes place, it is often a considerable one, and the pains which precede it are not only violent, but, if the eruption be small, they continue with little abatement, notwithstanding the diversion made towards the skin by the pustules; and, in such a case, the inclination towards a

nodous affection is strong, and predominates over the eruption. If a node be actually forming, the fixed pain, which leads to it, is almost insupportable, and often terminates in an affection of the subjacent bone. With respect to the pains which generally precede a late venereal eruption, as they are in proportion to the length of time elapsed since the original infection, and to the predisposition in the patient's habit, so are they more or less violent. They are felt in the pericranium, scapulæ, humerus, bones of the fore-arms, thigh-bones, the small and large bones of the legs, in the knees, sometimes in the ribs, and also in the ankle joints, shooting through them from within outwards. They are at first superficial and wandering, attacking alternately the joints, the periosteum, or muscular parts of different limbs. They are evidently worse at night; and according to the date of the disease and continuance of the pains, so is this nocturnal exacerbation more or less remarkable. If a large number of pustules break out, the pains generally subside, unless a nodous affection is actually formed on some particular bone. But if this eruption be checked, and the disease not cured, then the pains return with more violence than ever; they soon become fixed to the periosteum of particular bones, and

nodes arise in consequence. It is probable that the pains, the eruption, and nodous affection of the periosteum would follow each other, if the disease were left entirely to nature. Thus the pains would subside for a time upon the complete eruption, the pustules would continue for some weeks, or perhaps months, on the skin, gradually undergoing a kind of maturation; and when the disease had in some measure spent itself on the skin, then, and not till then, the affection of the periosteum would take place. But, if mercury, or other means be used, in an insufficient manner, to cure the disease, then this natural order is immediately inverted. The venereal poison, being repelled from the skin, cannot remain long in a dormant state, either in the blood or attached to the nervous power; and if it produce no other secondary symptoms, the next stage of the disease to an eruption is the nodous affection, and this therefore generally follows. In an early venereal eruption, there always exists the disposition to node, though the latter do not appear; but in a late eruption this disposition is probably much stronger, because there is a regular gradation in the symptoms of the disease; and the older its date, the nearer is it in approach to that stage in which a node

would naturally arise. Perhaps one reason why a node, when it breaks out some years after the original infection is the only symptom, may be, because the time, or natural period, at which a venereal eruption, or sore throat, or other more early secondary symptom would have come on, is past and over. The same, I apprehend, may sometimes be said of an ozæna, and venereal affection of the bones themselves. In this way the disease sometimes skips over, or avoids the more early secondary symptoms, and shews itself at a very late period after the original infection, by one of an older date.

When there are but few pustules on the surface, the venereal pains are often uncommonly severe. I have observed this particularly in old poxes, and in cases where one would, from the length of time elapsed since the original infection, expect rather to find nodes or gummata, than an eruption. In one case, I remember a very considerable venereal eruption was thrown out, seemingly by that increased circulation which attends an ordinary abscess, many years after the infection from which the eruption took its rise; the intermediate symptoms having been pains, and a venereal opthalmia. In another case, a number of painful

nodes appeared, nearly in the same manner as the foregoing eruption, the patient having been many years infected without knowing his real situation. A fever, the cause I could not precisely ascertain, probably by increasing the circulation, put the venereal matter into action; a deposit was made on each tibia, and a number of very painful nodes were the consequence. But there was no intermediate eruption, nor any other remarkable symptom, from the original chancre, to the rise of the nodes, though the period was six years: but here, perhaps, the first doses of mercury might have so modified the eruptive symptoms as to make them slight; and the subsequent treatment might have so changed the natural course of disease, as to produce an affection of the periosteum, at a period later than usual. Pains sometimes precede the eruptions, sometimes they come on with it, and sometimes follow it. This variation, I apprehend, depends on the date of the disease, and the effects which the unsuccessful operation of the remedy has produced upon it. The time of the appearance of nodes, as well as of eruptions, must, therefore, vary in different cases exceedingly, and admits of great latitude; it may be within a few months, or at least at the distance

of several years, from the original infection. Nodes usually break out in the centre, or nearly the centre, of the larger cylindrical bones. But they are by no means confined either to those parts, or to such bones; for they very frequently arise on different parts of the cranium, both on its outer and inner surfaces, on the fibulæ near their lower extremities, on the tibiæ near their upper extremities; on the ulnæ near the wrists, or near the olecranon, and in other places. During the formation of the early eruptive symptoms, I have supposed that there is always a disposition to node, which becomes stronger at and after the eruption, and that it increases with the age of the pustules. When these symptoms—that is, the eruptive, prevail, the pains are wandering and diffused over different surfaces: but when the pustules appear, they subside, either wholly or partially, and there is an interval of ease, or, at least, a remission. If the disease is suffered to advance without a check, and in its natural course, its interval cannot be a long one, though it may continue for weeks, or even months; for pains will come on afterwards, as it were *de novo*, of the same general character with the eruptive symptoms, new-modelled, however, by the continuance and length of

the disease: and these, after tormenting the patient for some time, become at length fixed, and end in nodes.

The symptoms preceding a late eruption, are very similar to those of an early one, and there is sometimes the same kind of interval, or remission, when there is a large crop of pustules. But, where the number is small, the tendency to node, from the long continuance of the disease, being often stronger than the tendency to eruption, the metastasis makes its ravages principally on the internal surface. The centre of one or more bones of the cranium, or long bones, become the seat of the pains, which are of a tensive, boring kind, exceedingly acute, accompanied with tenderness during the paroxysm, often trifling by day, but excruciating during the fore and middle parts of the night: and when the tibiæ are affected, there is sometimes a sense of weariness and great uneasiness, on walking to any considerable distance. In this manner the pains may continue for some time, without producing any perceptible local injury: and, in this case, the interval, if mercury has been exhibited, is sometimes a long one, of the duration even of years, the patient, in the meanwhile, enjoying a tolerable state of health, or feeling at times what he supposes a

common rheumatism. The pains, however, either suddenly invade him, when no venereal injury has been suspected, or gradually, when it has become fixed to particular parts of the bones. When fixed, they manifest their immediate effects in two ways, and the subsequent affection of the membrane is either diffused or circumscribed. In the first case, the pain, when it attacks the periosteum of a long cylindrical bone, often extends from one end of it to the other, and seems as if bounded by the epiphysis only. To such an extent of pain there supervenes a tenderness, which is soon followed, if not timely remedied, by a puffiness of the periosteum, which retains the impression of the finger; this puffiness terminating, in some cases, by a sloughing of the membrane, and sometimes not. This species of node has, by one of the early writers, been said to be gummatous, or soft, in contradistinction to the circumscribed node, which was said to be tophaceous, or hard. The hard circumscribed node is the most common; the nodous affection generally begins with this appearance, and if it continue any considerable time, frequently extends itself all along the surface of the bone, to the extent of some inches. If the disease be situated on the tibia, it takes a direction to-

wards the upper extremity or head of that bone, along which line of extent there is first a tenderness, and afterwards a puffiness, resembling the gummatous species. Most frequently the disease is confined to the periosteum; and upon the introduction of a proper quantity of mercury, judiciously administered, the tenderness and puffing of the one species, and the pain, hardness, elevation, and circumscribed appearance of the other go off entirely. But in the hard, or circumscribed node, it sometimes happens, that though the fairest and most judicious use of the remedy may have been adopted, and though the pain and other concomitant venereal symptoms may have ceased, yet the elevation still continues, and seems to have acquired the solidity of bone.

This I call an exostosis: it was, no doubt, originally a venereal affection of the nodous kind, perhaps of the periosteum only: but which, by the long continuance of the disease, or by the concurrent operation of circumstances to me unknown, is become at length an affection of the bone itself.—The distinction I would make between node and exostosis is this; that the one is a venereal affection of the periosteum covering the bone, the other an excrescence, or expansion of the bony plates them-

selves, proceeding, however, from a previous nodous affection of the periosteum, and the long continuance of the disease. When a collection of venereal matter has continued long on the surface of any bone, it gradually insinuates itself into its very substance. Thus from the surface it may extend to the diploe, thence to the inner table of the cranium; and from the outer to the inner cancellous parts of such a bone as the tibia, and others of a like construction; in this way rendering the bones of each part completely carious. A venereal node, wherever situated, may be always known by the nature of the pain preceding or attending its formation. Like some other venereal pains, it is sometimes felt by day as well as by night; but the violence of the paroxysm (if I may be allowed that expression) domineers principally during the fore and middle parts of the night. At other times it is more completely nocturnal, the patient either feeling no pain by day, or such a slight degree of it as is disregarded. We have instances of the first kind of pain, during the rise of a considerable node, while the membrane is in the act of elevation, and kept on the stretch by irritation; and of the second, when the node, after having passed its inflammatory stage, has become

puffy, and arrived at a kind of imperfect suppuration. Not only by the pain, and other concomitant or preceding venereal symptoms, may the hard, circumscribed node of the tibia, be generally discriminated, but also by two other circumstances, the one is a kind of hardened chord, which is sometimes to be felt going in a transverse direction from behind the outer edge of the tibia towards the tibialis anticus muscle, which, when present, is a certain indication that the node is venereal. It must be, however, remembered, that this kind of chord does not always disappear entirely on the disease being cured. The other circumstance is the firmness of the tumour, or its want of mobility over the surface of the periosteum. The various forms under which this symptom sometimes appears, are very remarkable. It is impossible to describe every variety; but a few more instances will make the diagnosis more clearly understood, and throw some further light on the natural history of the disease.

A gentleman who had suffered violently from a bilious complaint in Bengal, was reduced almost to death's door. Formerly he had had venereal symptoms, of which he believed himself cured; several of these, however, returned, together with intermittent attacks of bile; and

he was advised to return to England. When he arrived in London, he was recommended to go to Bath and Bristol; but he received no benefit from these visits. From Bristol he embarked for Ireland, eight months after he left India; he was shipwrecked on the coast of Wales, and was, in consequence of this, very much exposed to cold. His bilious complaint became worse, but, by medical assistance, he was again relieved. In this situation, after walking to a considerable distance on the preceding day, he was suddenly seized in the night with excruciating pains along the shin-bones, which continued day and night for more than a week. When the violence of the pain, and what he conceived to be inflammation, abated, a lump or node came upon each tibia, to which empl. mercur. was applied. After this the nodes became more painful, and a kind of suppuration took place within them, which broke externally. When he came to me, which was some months afterwards, the nodes had somewhat diminished from their original size; there was an opening in each, leading to a thickened periosteum; and on one leg the membrane, for some inches above the node and towards the knee, was doughy and diseased, and felt as if it had in that part sloughed and produced a cavity in the bone. Confinement and a course

of mercury for seven weeks, cured him without supervening or attendant exfoliation, and without the disagreeable necessity of laying the bones bare. He recovered his strength surprisingly fast, experienced no bilious return, and at this time enjoys perfect health.

Another person, who had been married six years, the father of a child three years old, consulted me for a tenderness and pain, which he had felt for many months, on the left temporal bone. Upon examining it, there was no discolouration, no tumour, nor external opening; but, for the size of a shilling, there was a doughy irregular kind of feel, as if the bone had been depressed, or had mouldered away in that particular spot; it was at all times tender, and he felt a slight degree of pain in the day-time, but it was most painful at night. He had no other symptoms whatever. Upon the presumption that his case was venereal, I confined him close to his chamber, and salivated. The mercurial process went on very kindly, and I had no occasion to do any thing locally to the symptom; the tenderness, the pain, and uncommon sensation went off, and, at the expiration of two-and-twenty days, he was well. I had an opportunity of seeing him some years afterwards, in perfect health. This patient dated the commencement of infection before

his marriage, so that the disease was of more than six years' standing, and the original symptom to which he attributed the affection of the head, was a chancre.

When the disease has remained in the habit for a considerable time, more especially if a venereal eruption has preceded, the symptoms which arise may be wholly confined to the periosteum and bones. Sometimes little distinct elevations may be felt on different parts of the cranium, and also on other bony surfaces; which, after undergoing a kind of imperfect suppuration, and breaking, subside for a time and return again; sometimes they come and go without breaking, but it more frequently happens that these elevations are large, and fixed to the parts on which they first appear. I was once under the necessity of dividing a node on the cranium; and, to my surprise, the wound, though made in a person very much diseased, healed as any other wound would have done, without mercury. A man, having had a severe fall from a horse, wounded the integuments of the head slightly. He was stunned for a time, but soon recovered, and continued tolerably well for a few days; he then became feverish, complained much of his head, and could get no sleep. The wound had clearly no connexion with these symptoms;

for, upon examining the head, I found a tumour on the os frontis, at a considerable distance from the part injured, tender, elevated, and about the size of a small egg. The patient assured me that he had had this tumour for some time previous to the fall, and had also others of the same kind on different parts of his head, which, to use his own words, came and went; and, on further examination, I discovered nodes on each tibia. Though I believed the appearance in question was a node, yet, as the febrile symptoms continued, I laid the tumefied part bare; there was no fracture, but the pericranium was separated from the cranium, and the surface of the latter was rough, for the breadth of a sixpence. When the general symptoms were removed by rest, evacuations, and a proper diet, the wound of the node healed very kindly in a few days; this man had been diseased for four years. What appearance the surface of a bone generally presents, on which there is a node of this sort, it is difficult to say; but this had evidently the copper hue of an external venereal pustule. Perhaps all nodes are internal pustule, in some respects analogous to those we see on the skin; and, like them, they are sometimes short-lived and transitory: they are, at first sight, slight elevations of the periosteum only, which, in

time, proceed to maturation, and when that is accomplished, the periosteum separates from the bone. How far the mere pressure of a node may act in producing a caries of the subjacent bone, I cannot say; but it is probable that whenever a morbid fluid is confined under the periosteum, which is, I believe, often the case, it will act upon the natural gluten of the bones themselves: I mean, upon that substance which connects the bony plates or calcareous particles to each other; and, in consequence of this action upon the gluten, the bones become brittle. The appearance of diseased bones, from a venereal cause, seems to strengthen this theory; for they often appear as if reduced to mere calcareous earth. Be that as it may, there can be no doubt of the disease sometimes rendering the bones brittle; but it can only take place at the period I am now describing. I knew a gentleman who had been for many years dreadfully afflicted with lues, without knowing his real situation; at one time he broke a leg, and at another an arm, merely by a sudden exertion of the muscles of those limbs. It has been supposed that a molities ossium was also sometimes the effect of this disease; but I could never meet with a satisfactory proof of this. Where a person has been much diseased, and has used very large quan-

tities of mercury in the alterative way, and this has not been evacuated by any one outlet, particularly by its proper one, the salivary glands, but has been left in the habit to amalgamate with every part of the system, for a great length of time, *then*, I think, I have seen something like it; and my idea is, that mercury, when used in this manner, and retained in the system, may, in a few instances, cause so strong an action of the absorbing lymphatics, as to enable them to take up a portion of calcareous earth from any bone of the body. Perhaps the use of spirituous liquors, during a long continued and free use of mercury, will give this strong action to the lymphatic vessels. Venereal ulceration, beginning in any part of the periosteum, may ultimately affect the subjacent bone with caries; and this sometimes so completely, that nothing but exfoliation, after the disease is subdued by the general remedy, can effect a cure. But it also happens, sometimes, that the disease of the bones, whatever it be, yields with little trouble to the general action of the medicine, without the necessity of exfoliation. In the foetus, the periosteum is evidently continued over the joints, and forms what, in the adult, anatomists have called perichondrium; it is, therefore, no wonder if this part sometimes become the seat of a venereal

deposit ; nor are the cartilages themselves, though in structure materially distinct both from periosteum and bone, wholly exempt. Large gummatus kind of swellings, evidently from a venereal cause, do sometimes affect the elbow, the knee, and ancle-joints. Nearly allied to tumours of this kind are what are called gummata, on the aponeurotic and muscular parts ; for example, on the muscles of the outer part of the leg, or faschia lata of the thigh. They are sometimes small distinct bodies, somewhat like encysted tumours ; sometimes they occupy nearly the whole of a large muscle, with its aponeurotic covering, thickened and enlarged, so as almost to equal the hardness of bone ; and I have known an enlargement of this kind affect a considerable portion of the triceps extensor cubiti, but it is not common. In the case to which this allusion is made, there was a venereal sarcocele also. Salivation cured both affections. I have shown in what manner the periosteum, when it is venereally diseased, may affect the bones, and hitherto supposed that the injury occupies only the large cylindrical, or more solid bones ; parts which, though sometimes rendered carious by disease, yet most frequently admit of a cure, either with or without an evident exfoliation. But, unfortunately, it sometimes happens, that

a nodous affection attacks the smaller, more spongy bones, whose very delicate structure seldom admits of exfoliation ; and whether pressure, or erosion, be the immediate cause of the caries, the bone, from its thinness, as well as sponginess, is destroyed throughout. In this way, the bones of the palate vomer, os ethmoides, the bones forming the bridge and sustaining the cartilaginous parts of the nose, may be irretrievably injured or lost. They may be also lost from the venereal mischief attacking, in the form of a corona veneris, the middle space of the forehead ; causing a drip of sanies, from the diploe above, downwards. When any one, or all of these effects, are produced by a metastasis, or by a deposit of venereal matter, I call the affection

A VENEREAL OZÆNA.

This is sometimes a symptom of such extraordinary malignity, and so rapid in its progression, that the bones attacked are actually destroyed, in some few instances, as soon as the state of the case is clearly known. In others, although its existence may have been ascertained a short time, and the proper remedies administered, the violence of the malady, now too far a-head to be arrested, not unfrequently

prevails over the specific. Ozæna, therefore, of all other cases, asks the most indefatigable attention.

When the os frontis, in consequence of a previous node, becomes carious at its lower and middle part, just above the root of the nose, and this caries affects to a considerable depth the outer table of the skull, the disease may insinuate itself thence, inwards, to the os ethmoides and bones of the nose, and be the forerunner of an ozæna of the most alarming kind. Pains, deep seated in the palate, or bones of the nose, more especially if they are felt towards its root, either without, or with a purulent and fetid discharge, be it ever so trifling or small in quantity, when not the effect of catarrh, scrophula, or scurvy, are circumstances strongly suspicious. It is very seldom that an ozæna comes on without other manifest venereal symptoms, and it is generally an easy matter to determine, from the history of the case, what the remote symptoms were, and how far the means, adopted for their removal, were equal, or incompetent, to the cure.

To the symptoms just mentioned, as leading to a proper diagnosis, may be added the circumstance of any pre-existing symptoms, known to have been truly venereal: if the patient, for example, have had ulcerations about the fauces,

which were supposed to have been cured; or if he bear, at the time of examination, any marks of ulceration about the *alæ nasi*, or appearances of the verrucous kind within the nose.

Since writing the above, I have been in consultation with two surgeons regarding the management of a venereal patient, whom they despaired of curing. Though I have not seen the patient, I subjoin the history of his case, as I collected it from their statement: having assured them at the time, that I had no doubt of his most perfect cure, if proper measures were pursued. He had been infected for many years; had had venereal pains, gummata, and other symptoms, and had undergone several courses of mercury without relief. The disease constantly recurred in some form or other; till, at length, it affected both nose and palate, and his constitution was so harrassed and debilitated, that it was believed he could not long survive his malady. In this situation, at my instance, but with the concurrence of his medical friends, he was salivated in a warm room, never leaving it till he was convalescent. His cure was accomplished in eight weeks; the diseased bones, both of the nose and palate, coming away during the course. He is now a very healthy and active man, and never had the smallest return of any one symptom of

lues, up to the present time, now above twelve months.—In another similar case, the same kind of cure was effected, and has remained without any recurring symptom. The deformity, which was unavoidable in each case, alone existed: but this has been in some degree mitigated, by the substitution of an artificial nose and palate. These men, not to mention others, are now living—instances of the great anti-venereal power of mercury, when properly used, even in the worst cases: and these, it must be confessed, may be ranked in that class.

Venereal ozæna cannot well be confounded with that described by Celsus, which results from bad teeth, scurvy, scrophula, and from a kind of abscess which sometimes forms in the antrum highmorianum. There are a few other symptoms, which, though not strictly speaking venereal, are yet the consequences of the lues venerea: it is necessary to note them, on two accounts. In the first place, they will often assist the practitioner in forming his diagnosis of the disease; and in the next, as some of them indicate a general indisposition of habit, they require, on that account, a particular attention. Fallopius tells us, that lassitude and flying pains came on in his time, immediately upon receipt of infection: these symptoms I could never distinguish.

Paleness of the Face and Sallow Complexion :

These appearances of the countenance sometimes occur in the primary stages of the disease, and they are then, I believe, generally produced by local irritation, and the general effects of the specific on the system. But they are also discernible, when the constitution has been long harassed by secondary symptoms. In like manner, emaciation, grief, and dejection of mind, are sometimes observable in the primary stage: but they are most conspicuous in those, who have had symptoms of the secondary kind for a great length of time. In the last stages of the disease, when the habit has become thoroughly vitiated by long amalgamation with the unsubdued poison, the whole body seems to participate in an unusual irritability; there is a quickened pulse, a proneness to anger, and, seemingly, an universal agitation of the nervous symptoms; but I have sometimes known these symptoms to occur without the acceleration of pulse. The daily paroxysms of pain, which come on with an exacerbation every night, the want of rest, the open or lurking ulcerations in various parts of the body, cause this irritability, and impede, perhaps contaminate, the functions of every secretion; and in this way may an atrophy, or hectic, be produced.

CHAPTER IX.

ON THE VARIOUS ARTICLES SUPPOSED TO POSSESS THE
POWER OF CURING SYPHILIS.

So many medicines have been extolled, by different theorists, as possessing an anti-syphilitic efficacy, that it will neither be out of place here, nor uninteresting to the reader, to enumerate the chief of these. One preliminary remark alone seems necessary; that there exists only *one certain remedy* against the disease—MERCURY. Some practitioners in the South of France, the surgeons of Montpellier in particular, have lately exhibited a preparation of *gold*, which they state to have been equally efficacious: but it does not appear that this remedy is more innoxious than *mercury*, in its general effects, and its *certainty* is yet to be established. There can be no hesitation, therefore, in discommending a doubtful remedy.

The MINERAL ACIDS, generally, have been thought to exert a powerful influence against this disease: and particularly the nitrous.

The NITROUS ACID obtained great popularity as an anti-syphilitic among our Indian practitioners, and comes warmly recommended by their experience.

Our expectations, often deceived by pompous promises, were not raised high, when we were informed that its effects were equal to mercury: yet, though far inferior, it is a medicine of great utility.

The nitrous acid will not cure lues, but it will *arrest* the symptoms, and will restore the strength in those intervals when mercury can no longer be borne. It will sometimes, in these intervals, seem even to advance the cure, and we can truly add, that the *methodus medendi* has not for many years received a more powerful auxiliary. It is by far the most efficacious of this class of remedies, and frequently removes those pseudo-syphilitic symptoms, which are the consequence of lues.

The other accessory anti-syphilitics are, the bark, opium, china root, guaiacum, sassafras, astragalus, lobelia, lupulus, dulcamara sarsa, and mezereon. I have arranged them in what seems the order of their efficacy, commencing with the least powerful; omitting the volatile alkali, muriated barytes, the juniper, cicuta, green rind of the walnut, the bardana, and saponaria, as of very inconsiderable, if any, power. On the individuals of the former class I shall add a few remarks.

The PERUVIAN BARK has, alone, no power

of checking the progress of the syphilitic infection. Yet it is often highly useful in lues, when mercurial ulcers occur in the mouth; when the ulcers of suppurating buboes assume a livid appearance: or when those in the perinæum are foul, with deep sloughs. It has been contended, that it meliorates the venereal symptoms, but, in reality, it only lessens their painful irritation, by diminishing irritability.

The CICUTA and GREEN RIND OF WALNUT, in the second class, act in the same manner, if indeed they act at all.

OPIUM has been celebrated as a certain anti-syphilitic, and in many instances it has had *apparently* a very powerful effect. This, however, has been only temporary, and the symptoms have returned with increased violence. It acts, like the former medicine, by lessening irritability; and, in some measure, perhaps, as a diaphoretic. In this way it is peculiarly useful in mercurial ulcers.

The CHINA-ROOT, the GUAIACUM, SASSAFRAS, ASTRAGALUS ESCAPUS, LOBELIA SYPHILITICA, CUPULUS, and DULCAMARA, are not found to answer the high expectations formerly conceived of them. The first two enter occasionally, as ingredients, into diet drinks; the others, in this country, are scarcely ever prescribed.

The SARSAPARILLA has maintained a considerable credit, and is now generally employed. What its effects may be in a recent state we know not; but we have found its powers inconsiderable in this country, though we have given large doses in substance. It appears to be chiefly mucilaginous, with few sensible properties, which lead us to suppose it active.

The MEZEREON, on the contrary, is a powerfully stimulating diaphoretic, from a plant strongly narcotic, and seems to combine the united virtues of the rest. It has, alone, often effected all that has been expected from the others, which, in many instances, seem to overwhelm, instead of adding to its powers. If we examine these anti-syphilitics, we shall find them, in general, narcotic; in a few instances merely mucilaginous, and in general, diaphoretic. If the Sarsa is not merely mucilaginous, it is diaphoretic. From such property, we perceive, that some advantages may be derived in lues; and when all are combined, the effect may be more salutary. In the mezereon, we combine the diaphoretic and the narcotic; in the Sarsa, the former with the demulcent; in juniper, the bardana, the sassafras, and the guaiacum, we have probably only the diaphoretic, or with a less degree the mucilaginous; in the dulcamara, lupulus, astragalus, the

green rind of walnut, bark, and opium, the narcotic only. The same views assist us in forming a judgment of their comparative merits ; but their order was long since fixed by experience, before we had occasion to examine the source of their efficacy. Above all, we must reflect, that those which have any claim to a diaphoretic power are given in decoction, by which the active particles are attenuated and conveyed to the skin ; and these are useful where the disease has penetrated to the minutest vessels.

CHAPTER X.

GENERAL REMARKS ON SELF-POLLUTION AND ITS
CONSEQUENCES.

It is a position universally admitted, that virtue is its own reward; and the contrary is as generally and indisputably established, that vice becomes its own punishment.

Never was an axiom or an inference, never was a cause or an effect, more conspicuously illustrated on these general principles, than in the remarks of that vice, which is the subject of the following observations.

The Supreme Being, in the plenitude of his mercy and love to man, has given him free will; he has given him commands, not more for his own honour than man's happiness; in other words, the CREATOR commands his creatures to be happy. As man's happiness, therefore, is comprehended in his obedience to these commands—a truth, which Infidelity herself has not presumed to question—his misery is the result of his disobedience: for it is a truth, no less salutary than severe, that what is displeasing to God is ultimately destructive to man.

It is not an uncommon apology with unbri-
 dled licentiousness, or systematic voluptuous-
 ness, to plead the passions as an extenuation,
 nay, sometimes as a justification, of irregular
 or illicit gratifications. That the passions form
 and uphold the man, as elements do the system
 of the universe, I am ready to acknowledge;
 but that these passions, interwoven with, and
 implanted in our nature as they are, were given
 for the purpose of being gratified, I deny: that
 license would make the mind of man a perfect
 chaos. The divine light of reason is given to
 regulate, restrain, digest, and harmonize that
 wonderful world in miniature—man; that incom-
 prehensible, that indescribable composition of
 matter and spirit.

In the proportion that we act under the blind
 impulse of passion, in the same ratio we de-
 scend to the inglorious level of brutality; and
 there is no difference between the man and the
 brute, in this state of degeneracy, but in their
 form. On the contrary, while we act in a scru-
 pulous conformity to the dictates of reason, we
 approximate to the perfection of the Divine
 nature.

In treating the following subject, it is my
 first wish that delicacy of language should go
 hand in hand with truth of description. To

be useful, however, a medical writer must be explicit. Yet I shall endeavour, if I am able, to spare the matron a blush who may read it, or her daughters who may hear it read: while she, the fittest person in the world for such a task, admonishes her inexperienced female offspring to shun that dangerous rock, on which so much honour, health and beauty, have suffered an untimely wreck.

I shall now make a few observations on ONANISM, as it affects either domestic, or social happiness.

The passion of love was implanted in the breast, for the wisest and most beneficial purposes of social happiness. It is a reciprocal source of attraction to the sexes; through its diffusive influence, honourable and permanent connexions are formed in life, on the basis of which sacred unions, the happiness of nations, as well as individuals, depends. But how can that union be permanent or happy—how can that mutual attachment subsist, between males and females incapable of receiving and communicating the pleasures, which constitute at once the blessing and the bond of matrimony?

The general object of the union of the sexes, is the procreation of children. Such as do not enter the marriage state with this view, disobey

the grand mandate of Heaven, "Increase and multiply,"—and are also useless members of the state, whose population is its primitive source of wealth.

If we behold the circle of domestic life, what scenes of dissension and sorrow shall we not perceive, in consequence of the parties accusing each other of incapacity? And, though neither of the charges are just in reality, yet they are so in appearance; as the cause of barrenness in females, and impotence in men, seldom or never proceeds from any hereditary cause, but from the practice of self-abuse. While I make this assertion, let it, however, be understood, that the complaints I have just mentioned, as affecting the sexes, are confirmed. Self-abuse, though it may debilitate, seldom destroys the generative system; and if the rising generation will but listen to the voice of instruction, all the ravages entailed by this practice may either be removed altogether, or so ameliorated, as to restore the sufferers to their full powers of propagation. To secure this inestimable blessing, let the incautious, who may read the following sheets, consult their author for the best means of recovering their health, and follow his advice for its preservation. I sincerely hope and desire, however, that my advice may be taken to prevent, rather than my treatment be

adopted to cure, the effects of this, but too prevalent, indulgence.

If we take a retrospect of the most celebrated legislators of antiquity, we shall observe the whole force of political talent directed to the propagation of the species. And it appears evident, from the statute laws respecting marriage, how much they appreciated the procreation of children. What civic privileges were granted to those who formed legal unions!—privileges that descended as an inheritance to their offspring. What care has the great SOLON shown, in his administration, in this particular! well knowing, that upon these connexions, the security, and the perpetuation of the Athenian State depended; punishing with inflexible severity the licentiousness that interrupted, the debauchery that disqualified, and the consequent debility that disabled, or disinclined the citizens to enter into matrimonial engagements, or to perform the functions for which, in all legislations, divine or human, or natural, such institutions have been founded and protected.

CHAPTER XI.

MASTURBATION.

Manustraptio, Onanismus, the sin of ONAN, from a perverted passage in the Pentateuch. It may be defined, the discharge of semen from a preternatural stimulus: the vice, it is said, of the solitary monk, and, perhaps, of other recluses, to whom more natural enjoyments are denied. It is a habit of the most destructive tendency, enervating, in the highest degree, both the body and the mind. Nature seems to have set a strong mark on those who are disposed to such unnatural enjoyments; and however secret their indulgencies may be, they in few instances escape detection from that *tact*, which has been peculiarly distinguished by the term of *sensus medicus*.

In general, the countenance is sallow, with a peculiar dejection in the look; the voice is hurried and unsteady—the face often covered with dark coloured pustules, hard in the skin—and the whole frame displays a remarkable debility. The dejection, at times, almost amounts to insanity, and every complaint appears to threaten instant death; a state of tre-

mour and agitation, which the patient can neither overcome nor moderate, shuts the door to those natural pleasures, by which he might be otherwise weaned from this destructive habit ; and his whole life is alternated with doubts and despair.

Unfortunately, the practice is seldom or never forsaken ; at least, notwithstanding every assurance given to the contrary, there is too much cause to suspect that it is occasionally resumed.

I shall describe some of the evils which arise from Masturbation. Our bodies suffer a continual waste, and if we could not repair this waste, we should soon sink into a state of mortal weakness. This reparation is performed by aliments ; but these aliments must undergo the different preparations which are comprehended under the word nutrition. When once this is either not produced, or only partially produced, all the aliments become useless, and such disorders must inevitably ensue as are the general attendants of extreme debility. Of all the causes which prevent nutrition, there are none, perhaps, more frequent than too copious evacuations of semen.

So nice is the conformation of the human machine, and indeed, of the animal machine generally, that for these aliments to acquire the degree of preparation necessary for repairing the waste of the body, it is requisite that a certain

quantity of humours, ready concocted, should be always at hand. If this condition be wanting, the digestion of the aliments becomes imperfect; and the more imperfect, in proportion as the deficient humour happens to be of a more elaborate kind, or of greater importance in the animal economy. A robust nurse, who would die by the loss of some pounds of blood within twenty-four hours, might furnish the same quantity of milk to her child five or six hundred days successively, without being sensibly out of order; because milk is, of all humours, the most adventitious, whereas blood is an essential fluid. Not less essential, in any view, to health and strength, is the seminal liquor: so great, indeed, is its influence over the corporeal powers, and upon perfect digestion which repairs them, that Physicians of all ages have unanimously held, that a loss of one ounce of this humour is equal to a loss of forty times its weight in blood. Some idea might be formed of its importance, from the effects it produces, as soon as its secretion commences. The voice, the physiognomy, the features of the face change, the beard grows, and the whole body often takes another appearance, because the muscular fibres acquire a tone and firmness which form a sensible difference between the body of an adult person and that of a youth not yet

arrived at the age of puberty. The changes are prevented, by destroying the organ which serves to separate the liquor that produces it; and just observations evince, that the removal of the testicles at the age of virility, causes the beard to fall, and a puerile voice to return. After this, can the powers of its operations upon the body be questioned? or can any one doubt of the various ills that must necessarily flow from the profuse evacuation of a humour that is so precious? Its destination determines the only proper method of its being evacuated. Certain distempers cause it sometimes to run off. It may be involuntarily lost in lascivious dreams.

If the dangerous effects of too abundant a discharge of this humour depended only upon the quantity, or were the same when the quantities were equal, it would be of little importance, in a physical sense, whether this evacuation was occasioned by either of the methods I have mentioned: but the manner is, in this respect, equal to the substance; I must be allowed the expression, the subject authorizes such licences. Too great a quantity of semen being lost in the natural course, produces very direful effects: but they are still more dreadful, when the same quantity has been dissipated in an unnatural manner. The accidents which happen to such as waste them-

selves in a natural way are very terrible ; those which are occasioned by masturbation are still more so. These latter properly form the object of these remarks, but the connexion they have with the former makes it necessary to describe them jointly.

CHAPTER XII.

MASTURBATION AMONG WOMEN.

THIS subject would be treated in a very imperfect manner, if I did not acquaint the fair sex that in pursuing the same career in these destructive practices, they expose themselves to the same dangers: that all the disorders which I have been describing, women have frequently brought upon themselves; and that fresh victims of the female sex, every day, sacrifice themselves to this destructive phrenzy. Besides all these symptoms which I have described, women are more peculiarly exposed to hysterical fits, or shocking vapours; to jaundice, to violent cramps in the stomach and back, to acute pains in the nose, to the *fluor albus* or *whites*, the secretion whereof is a continual source of the most smarting pain, and is the most frequent cause of BARRENNESS, by inducing a descent and ulceration of the matrix, or womb; and also to all the infirmities which these disorders bring on; to the extension and darting of the clytoris, the *furor uterinus*, which at once deprives them of decency and reason, and puts them upon a level with the most lascivious.

The physiognomy, that faithful mirror of the state of soul and body, gives the first indications of the internal disorder. The complexion and plumpness, which jointly confer a youthful look, and which is the sole substance of beauty; for without this even beauty produces no other effect than cold admiration. This complexion and plumpness are, I say, the first things that disappear; then a barrenness succeeds, and the skin becomes rough and tinged, of a lead colour; the eyes lose their brilliance, and by their languor express that of the whole frame; the lips lose their vermillion hue; the teeth their whiteness; and, in a word, it is no uncommon thing for the whole body to receive such a shock as to entirely distort the shape. The rachitis, commonly called the rickets, is not an uncommon disorder attendant upon the young females, who are addicted to the pernicious and disgraceful effects of self-abuse. Koffman says, that young people who indulge in amorous pleasures, before they have attained their full growth, would fall away and diminish, instead of growing. It is therefore evident that the same cause that may prevent growth, should, by a stronger reason, distort it. I am perfectly convinced that the great number of spiral distortions which we now meet with in practice, arise from an indulgence in this habit of self-pollution. A

common symptom in both sexes, and which I rank under this article, as it is more frequent among women, is indifference, which this practice leaves for the lawful pleasures of Hymen, even when their inclinations and powers still remain; an indifference which does not only induce many to embrace a life of celibacy, but even accompanies the nuptial bed. A lady, a patient of mine, wrote to me and acknowledged that this unhappy practice had gained so complete a dominion over her senses, that she detested the lawful means, and had no gratification in the embraces of her husband. I had another patient, a young gentleman of rank and fortune, who was initiated into this destructive habit by his preceptor, and who had the same disgust upon his early entrance into the marriage state; and the anguish of his situation, joined to his exhausted condition, the consequence of this unmanly practice, threw him into a profound melancholy. Both these cases, however, yielded to the power of the nervous and strengthening remedies which I have for years prescribed with almost invariable success. Not long since, a young lady of great personal charms, about 18 years of age, who had enjoyed a good state of health, was seized with an astonishing weakness; her powers daily diminished; in the day-time she was constantly overcome with drowsiness, and, at

night, unable to sleep; she lost her appetite, and a dropsical swelling spread over her body; after having consulted several surgeons of considerable eminence, she came with her aunt to request my opinion and assistance. I found her courses were regular. I therefore suspected Masturbation, as the cause of this mischief. The effect of the first question which I put to her confirmed my suspicion; I represented to her aunt the danger of such a practice, and the absolute necessity of cessation from any farther indulgence in the habit, as without which no remedies, however powerful, could prove successful. This was faithfully promised, and by the use of the tonic and strengthening remedies I usually prescribe in these cases, the progress of her disorder was in a few days stopt, and a very favourable change had evidently taken place. By a perseverance in their use for six weeks, the patient was perfectly re-established in health and spirits.

It is time to conclude these details, so shocking to natural feeling. I am weary of detecting the turpitude and misery of humanity. I shall not in this place collect any more facts, but conclude with one general observation,—which is, that young people, born with a tender constitution, have many more disorders to combat than those who are born vigorous.—None

are exempt from punishment, but it is not inflicted equally upon all. Those particularly who have any reason to apprehend any hereditary disorder, either from their father or mother's side; such as are threatened with the gout, the stone, hectic fever, consumptions, &c. are troubled with a cough, an asthma, spitting of blood, megrims, epilepsy, or are inclined to that kind of rickets, or distortions of the spine, which I have mentioned above; all such patients should be perfectly persuaded, that every act of this kind of debauchery strikes deep at their constitution, and will, in the very flower of their youth, bring on all the infirmities of a premature and languishing old age.

Tartareas vivum constat inire vias.

CHAPTER XIII.

STERILITY.

STERILITY is that state of the female constitution which prevents conception, or soon destroys the connexion between the mother and embryo; for in man it is styled *impotence*. The second effect is, we think, the most common, though it has seldom been considered as a part of the subject; it is certainly that which is chiefly within the reach of medical assistance.

It is necessary to observe, that, for the continuation of the species, the female organs, particularly the ovarium and uterus, must be perfect, that no obstruction either takes place from the labia to the uterus, or from the latter to the Fallopian tube.

The vessels of the uterus must also admit of their menstrual dilatation, and be capable of yielding readily to the impulse.

It must be obvious that a defect in either portion of this series of organs will prevent conception; but such is the anxiety of nature for the continuation of the species, that any organical imperfection is comparatively rare. In other respects conception is apparently pre-

vented by the want of that excitement which is necessary to raise the fimbriæ of the Fallopian tube, in order that they may grasp the ovarium and convey the embryo to the uterus. This perhaps is a more common cause than is suspected. It certainly is the reason why common women, whose passions are rarely excited, do not usually conceive, and it is the reason why forced violations are seldom fruitful; sometimes perhaps why the offspring of forced marriages are seldom numerous.—When, from a peculiar conformation, the sexual connexion is attended with violent pain, conception, as may be expected, seldom follows.

The causes, however, which soon destroy the connexion between the mother and the embryo most commonly occasion Sterility, and they are referred to this head, because it is not ascertained that conception has taken place. A profuse leucorrhœal discharge is one of the most frequent causes of this kind; and we mention it in the first place, because it sometimes occasions the deficient excitement just described.—It does not, however, always produce this effect, for women, subject to considerable and constant discharges of the whites, have had, within our own observation, numerous families. A more frequent cause is menorrhagia, where the menstrual discharge recurring in great violence after a short period

destroys any conception that may have been formed. Women in general reckon about the midway between the last evacuation and the period of the expected return, and if the return is slight, short, and without pain, they consider impregnation as having taken place about six or eight days only before the period of this short appearance, which they style a *show*.—In this climate the menstrual discharge is by no means inconsistent with impregnation: but it is only the short imperfect evacuation, which apparently comes only from some portion of the uterus; very considerable discharge destroys the newly animated embryo by separating it.

Painful menstruation is another cause—The pain we have found to be occasioned by a spasm on the vessels of the uterus itself—It will be obvious that the commotion excited by these spasms must separate the weak attachment so newly formed. A nervous, irritable woman, subject to agitation from common accidents, is seldom known to conceive: for the embryo is soon separated in the first periods of its existence.

But when we consider all the causes just mentioned, we frequently find Sterility to be occasioned by too early venery, or by an excessive indulgence in that destructive habit of

self-abuse, so fatally practised by youth of both sexes.

If it arises in consequence of a general weakness, no matter from what cause, the system is to be strengthened by a generous nutritive diet : by cold bathing, both general and topical ; by the cinchona bark, chalybeates, and other tonics.

CHAPTER XIV.

IMPOTENCE.

Impotence in men is the same in its effects as sterility in women ; that is, an inability to propagate the species ; but in the causes and circumstances, these states greatly differ.

In each, there is a failure of propagation : but in each, there is by no means an unfitness for the venereal act. Sterility in women, indeed, often arises, like impotence in men, from a coldness of the constitution, which admits not of due excitement ; but it is also owing to the causes which separate the foetus almost as soon as formed. From men who are impotent, no impregnation takes place.

The great causes of impotence in men, are organic defects, and debility. In generation, the semen must be carried to the uterus, and probably to the Fallopian tube ; but in this ultimate destination it is apparently assisted by the action of the womb itself. To carry it to this organ requires a free passage through the urethra, no inconsiderable power and activity in the ejaculatory muscles, and the full distension of the corpora cavernosa.

The free passage is sometimes prevented by strictures in the urethra, and sometimes by a faulty direction of the orifice through which the semen passes. A natural phymosis has been found also an obstruction to the free discharge of the seminal fluid. A severe priapism seems occasionally to contract the cavity of the urethra, or of the entrance of the vasa deferentia: for in this disease there is no emission, and the feelings are those of violent pain rather than of pleasure. Intoxication, in some men, will produce this violent spasm, and unfit them for the completion of the venereal act.

DEBILITY, however, from too frequent or unnatural indulgencies, is the most common cause, shewn by an imperfect erection of the penis, or too weak a discharge of the semen: the latter is often a consequence of the former. In some weak habits the discharge immediately follows the slightest irritation, either of the parts or of the mind. Dreams so imperfect as scarcely to be remembered will occasion it, and this arises from the increase of irritability, in consequence of debility. From its remote cause tonics and the most stimulant nutriment are employed, but the only remedies are those which lessen irritability: namely, camphor, opium, henbane, or hemlock. Washing the

penis and scrotum, mornings and evenings, with cold water and salt, and dashing the water against these parts from a bidet, are often useful ; but it is necessary to remove every alluring or enticing object to guard against every lascivious thought. When impotence arises from so great a debility as to admit of the discharge of semen by the efforts to relieve the bowels, the strongest tonics and astringents are required.

It has been supposed by some authors, that in such cases, the semen wants its usual stimulating properties, as it is observed to be unusually fluid ; but of this there is not sufficient proof, and as the discharge is so readily excited, we think it more probable that its fluidity depends on its not being allowed to stagnate.

Mr. HUNTER has refined unnecessarily on this subject, by stating one cause of impotence to be a want of correspondence in the successive actions of secretion and discharge. If the first be too rapid for that erected state of the penis which renders the ejaculation effectual, it constitutes this disease as certainly as when the action of the muscles of the latter is too quick for the former. Debility, and its consequent state of irritability, is sufficient to explain all the circumstances of the case,

without such recondite researches. In general where there are corresponding actions of two connecting parts, it is very unusual to find them separated. Each may be weakened, but from habit each will partake of the disease, but with diminished power.

A singular cause of impotency is recorded in the Medical Essays of Edinburgh, where each attempt was followed by an epileptic paroxysm. It will not be surprising, that in mobile habits, disposed to convulsions, a stimulus so violent should bring on a paroxysm. The reasoning and the cure were equally ridiculous; nor is this a single specimen where physicians have succeeded by accident, and have really taken a readier road for the relief of the disease than they themselves suspected.

The state of the mind has a considerable influence on the powers of the body, particularly in the venereal act: there is no act we perform that requires so perfect a coincidence of mind and body as the act of sexual intercourse. The body, Mr. JOHN HUNTER remarks, should not only be in a state of health, but the mind free from apprehensions, anxiety, and distress. The mere anxiety of excelling in this act has been no uncommon cause of disappointment; a state of hope—a consciousness of crime—a recollection of former

failures—equally enervate the body. Such causes of impotence are to be clearly distinguished from real defects, since an alteration in circumstances, by which the anxiety and distress are removed, will relieve the complaint. Greater confidence from having once succeeded, will at once break the charm, and all will be well.

The mind is more intimately connected with the genital system, chiefly in men, though in a more certain degree in the other sex, than has been imagined. The apprehension of weakness in this most important of functions, really produces it. The imagination broods over fancied ills, till the whole system becomes actually disarranged. In this state, every *wall* offers a certain remedy; and the Solar Tincture, the Restorative Drops, and God knows what nameless Elixirs, are eagerly bought. The names of these diseases are printed in large capitals, to lure the unwary. In general, each quack medicine is tried in succession, till tired nature goes away rapidly into hectic or dropsy; or the mind, sinking into imbecility or mania, offers a deplorable instance to what degradation human nature is exposed. Yet this distress might be avoided, if the patient had only resolved to tell his grief to a physician of experience, judgment, and character. A well regulated plan of medicine and diet would con-

tribute to relieve the bodily complaint, while the mind, consoled with prospects of returning health, would assist in realizing the predictions. Many such instances I have known, where the disease has been radically removed, and the desponding patient become the happy husband, and the delighted father of a numerous and healthy offspring.

I have so mixed the medical directions with the descriptions of the disease, that little remains to add on this part of my subject. I may, however, again repeat, that except in impotence from great relaxation, tonics and astringents are of small avail. Where it arises from too great irritability, a cooling diet—abstaining from lascivious thoughts or objects—and sedatives, are the best remedies.

In that case which arose from epileptic paroxysms, the cure was effected by rendering the object of desire more familiar before the act was again repeated, and, of course, lessening the two violent stimulus.

There is no opinion more inconvenient in its effects, than that which dictates a full, nutritious, and stimulant diet. I have often had occasion to repeat, that no cause of weakness is so frequent and obstinate as that which arises from fulness of the circulating system, and no plan of medi-

cine more injurious, than constringing over-distended vessels. It has been supposed that some remedies have a peculiar effect on the genital system; and the balsams have been given, as they are directed, to the bladder, and, of course, may communicate a stimulus to the neighbouring parts. They have not been found particularly advantageous; and even the balsam of Peru, which unites a tonic with its stimulant power, has not produced any very salutary effect. In every case, except where the fulness is considerable, cold bathing, both general and topical, is highly useful.

To abstain from, or indulge to excess in venereal pleasure, is equally injurious. A modest use is salutary; and marriage, if the disease be not too far advanced, is to be advised. It has often succeeded; and when the confidence that the power is not wholly lost, be once established, the power itself is soon regained.

CHAPTER XV.

SEMINAL WEAKNESS.

This may proceed from various causes ; but it is that variety of it only, which is usually supposed to arise from weakness in the seminal vessels, that we are now to consider. It is an occurrence which in young people, either in idea or reality, takes place daily : and as it proves at all times a source of much anxiety and distress, it necessarily becomes a frequent subject of attention to practitioners. A degree of debility inducing want of retention in the seminal vessels is, no doubt, occasionally met with ; but the strong desire which Nature has wisely implanted in all men to be complete and entire in whatever relates to the propagation of the species, is often, in early youth, the cause of much ill-founded suspicion on this point, and of circumstances respecting that being considered as real which is merely imaginary.

Thus there is nothing more common than young people supposing they are weak and debilitated, on perceiving an oozing of mucus from the urethra, or a discharge of semen when at stool. The first, however, is natural to many

when in full health, and where no suspicion of weakness exists; and the latter, or a discharge of semen, must at all times be the consequence of hardened fæces compressing the vesiculæ seminales, when these vessels are surcharged with semen. Bad suspicion on this point being once awake, it is often difficult, and sometimes impossible to remove it, insomuch that many have been rendered miserable by this alone, where no vestige of disease existed.

It is considered as one of the most certain proofs of weakness in the seminal vessels, when a discharge of semen instantly succeeds to an erection, or, perhaps, to an imperfect degree of it; and, generally speaking, this is the fact. But it may also happen from a state of over excitement in other parts of generation; and I also believe that it often occurs from the seminal fluid being collected in too great a quantity in the vesiculæ seminales. I have reason to imagine, as will appear in the sequel, that this is the most frequent cause of all such affections. It may be said, if the disease exists, and the patient is rendered completely impotent, that the cause of his being so is a point of little importance. It will appear, however, that this is by no means the case; for while impotency is in a great proportion of cases to be considered

as incurable, we have it in our power, perhaps, in most instances of approach to this state, to accomplish a cure.

I have before observed, that Gleet proceeds at one time from an affection of the glands in other parts of the urethra, but in some cases that it arises from a swelling of the prostate gland. When this exists for any length of time, we find that not only the duct of the prostate gland becomes weak and relaxed, but that a loss of tone takes place in some of the contiguous parts, particularly in the excretory ducts of the vesiculæ seminales; insomuch that a great proportion of all who have long laboured under gleet from affections of this gland, have likewise been liable, in some degree, to Seminal Weakness. It is well known that long-continued gleans are often the cause of impotency. For the most part it is supposed that this happens from the general debility which they induce. In some instances this may be the case; but I have much reason to think that they act much more frequently by inducing a local weakness only in the parts destined for the reception of the semen. This I conclude to be the case, from this kind of debility taking place where there is no appearance of general weakness; for instances often

occur, in constitutions apparently firm and healthy, of such degrees of weakness in the seminal organs, that emissions take place, not merely from partial erections and libidinous ideas, but from the ordinary friction applied to the penis in riding, and, in some instances, from the effect of heat alone, whether excited by wine, exercise, or sitting near a fire.

In people who have suffered much from frequent returns of gonorrhea, particularly where gleet has taken place from the cause I have mentioned, I have known several instances of the semen running off by the slightest application of any of the causes just enumerated. The local weakness thus induced in these parts by gleets, seems very much to resemble the effects of Onanism; a habit so baneful to many of our youth, that I believe it to be more destructive in its consequences than a great proportion of all the diseases to which in early life they are liable. Were it to prove hurtful to those only whose self-indulgence gives rise to it, there would be less cause to regret the effect of it; but besides rendering the parent himself miserable, it evidently entails the highest distress upon posterity, by generating languor, debility, and disease, instead of that strength of constitution, without which there can be no enjoyment.

Some, I know, have entertained a different opinion on this point, and imagine that no bad effects are to be dreaded from this habit of which we are now speaking. But this is so directly contrary to the opinions of others, and I have had so many instances in the course of my own practice, of constitutions being irretrievably ruined by indulgence in it, that I cannot avoid, in the strongest manner, giving my opinion of it. Nor does it appear that any benefit could result to society from a contrary opinion being admitted, even allowing it to be well-founded; for, although no immediate harm might ensue from it to the constitution, it ought to be discouraged as unnatural, and from its tending to divert the attention from an enjoyment of a much superior kind. While, therefore, there is much cause to consider the practice as highly dangerous to all who follow it; and while such a propensity prevails towards it, in that early age when boys cannot form a judgment of its destructive tendency, I consider it as incumbent on those who write upon it, to paint it, and the baneful effects which result from it, in their true and proper colours.

In the treatment of this variety of impotency, whether it has been induced by Onanism, or whether it be the consequence of gleet, it is

proper to distinguish it into two stages. The one, so far as I have seen, being of a nature that does not admit of any certain remedy, while the other may, in most instances, be completely cured. Many consider it so certainly as incurable, that the patient is led to despair from the first approach of it; and the opinion is often, unfortunately, realised, merely from the cause. I have mentioned—our not distinguishing the two stages of the disease, and allowing that which I suppose may be easily removed, to proceed without any attempt for this purpose, to that state of it which, in some instances, may be considered as incurable. Practitioners are frequently applied to by young men labouring under what I shall term the first stage of gleet; who, finding that a seminal discharge takes place from their being in company with women, from lascivious dreams, or from the parts of generation being in any degree overheated, begin to be afraid that they shall never again have the power of retention, and conclude, therefore, that they cannot, with propriety, enter into matrimonial connexions. We often find they admit Onanism to have been the primary cause of their distress; although, for a great length of time, perhaps for a number of years, they assert that they have been entirely out of the practice of it.

In this situation, whatever may be the appearance and habit of body of the patient, strengthening and astringent remedies are prescribed, such as bark, steel, balsam of copaiba, cold bathing, &c.; and whatever are his views, he is desired to avoid matrimony and all venereal intercourse. In a great proportion of cases, however, I am convinced that this practice and this advice are erroneous. Following the bulk of practitioners, I easily adopted them; but no good resulting from them, I have long since relinquished them, and I have seldom failed of success by advising measures of an opposite nature. Instead of advising abstinence from women, I always inculcate as frequent connexion as natural desires seem to require; and when matrimony is in view, instead of being afraid of it, as often happens with this class of patients, from a fear of their not performing the functions of it properly, I uniformly hold it forth as one of the best auxiliary remedies with which I am acquainted.

But whether these affections are separate or combined, they must be treated by the same means, suited to the degree of debility; and in all these cases I have, during a practice of upwards of thirty years, almost exclusively directed to diseases of the generative organs, found the Tonic Drops and Pills, a mild, safe, and efficacious remedy. In

most of the cases of seminal weakness, gleet, and debility, which I have treated by my tonic remedies, many practitioners of the first respectability and talent had previously failed. This circumstance is mentioned with no view to depreciate their merits, but to shew how valuable an addition my remedies must be to the means with which we were previously acquainted; since they effect complete cures, where gentlemen of learning and science, and thoroughly instructed in general theory and practice, have completely failed.

These remedies excite a certain degree of activity in the previously debilitated system, and maintain that degree of action, during which, debilitated organs are enabled to perform their natural functions, to return to their sound state, and to restore the patient to that greatest of all human blessings, a strong, manly, and vigorous constitution.

CHAPTER XVI.

ON THE ABSURDITY OF SELF-CURE.

Since the year 1796, the press has groaned under publications by authors on Self-Cure, who have taken great pains to shew the inutility of physicians, while they retain a veneration for medicine; and think, or seem to think, that until the one is emancipated from the monopoly of the other, its blessings can never be generally diffused.

This notion, I am much inclined to think, results from some mistaken opinion on the part of these doctors; though, perhaps, they may sincerely wish to do good, as there appears, through the whole tenour of their remarks, strong symptoms of some particular disrespect, which has led them to form this strange aversion to the Faculty at large. How, otherwise, they could persuade themselves into the opinion they have formed, I am at a loss to determine.

In contemplating their wishes to serve mankind, and their professions of disinterestedness and benevolence, we almost overlook the

extravagance of their propositions ; but, as too much credulity in promises of this nature invariably misleads the judgment, it is necessary, when erroneous opinions are propagated, to canvas them fairly, and state our objections with temper and moderation. We may then convince the authors of their faults, and the world of *our sincerity* : for, though no one is compelled to adopt an erroneous system, yet every man who knows it to be such, and consequently injurious to society, is bound to refute its evil tendency.

These authors on SELF-CURE, adopt Dr. RUSH's opinion, that to lay open the mysteries of medicine, and teach every man to be his own physician, would be of the last importance to mankind ; especially, as it would annihilate quacks. But such a measure would only multiply the evil which it was intended to remove ; for, making every man his own physician, would be to make every man a quack. It is impossible to understand any science without studying and investigating its first principles : since it is by this means alone, that appropriate applications are made in all cases. Without this previous knowledge, chance, instead of choice, directs ; for, he that does not know *which* is best, can have no choice.

It is a bad remedy in politics, to introduce anarchy as a cure for despotism ; to save life or property from the cruelty or rapacity of *one* tyrant, and expose them to the danger of *a thousand*. The case would be exactly similar, if, to exterminate a few illiterate pretenders, we should attempt to make every man his own physician, and thus to inundate the world with quackery. There is no need, in pulling up the tares, to pull the wheat also. Great as may be the desideratum, to every honest and liberal mind, to extirpate the whole race of empirics, yet few, I think, would be found consenting to it, at the expense of the whole body of the Faculty ; a body, who, from their learning, professional skill, and humanity, justly rank among the greatest ornaments and blessings of mankind. In the moment of popular effervescence, when it is the rage to adopt new-fangled opinions, it requires no extraordinary talent to become the favourite of an hour. These authors on Self-Cure, in addressing the public, have flattered their vanity in the teeth of their own conviction, and have given the lie to a truth which has been confirmed by the experience of ages : namely, that the period assigned to human existence, is *too short* for the attainment of a complete

knowledge of medicine. So abstruse, so various, so difficult, and so complicated, are the studies leading to such general knowledge!— And yet these authors make a physician with as much ease as the King does a Knight. Sickness and disease, in their various forms, are the portion and inheritance of mortality. It is the noblest, as well as the most abstruse of studies, to learn how to counteract their disastrous effects upon the human race. A General, conscious of his military skill, and the intrepidity of his army, may take a garrison by storm in twenty-four hours, which might not be taken in as many weeks by a less ardent process of sap: for, the garrison may have various opportunities of taking in provisions and re-inforcements; and, as whatever strengthens the garrison protracts the siege, its reduction is necessarily rendered more difficult by the delay. Exactly in point is it, when the venereal disease for instance, or any other disease, is attacked by medical skill. No time should be lost in expelling it; for by protracting the cure, a greater opportunity is afforded for the absorption of the virus, and the conversion of what was only local, into a constitutional disease. Various internal, as well as external causes, contribute to increase

its malignity while it lurks in the system, and render its promptest expulsion indispensably necessary. But, as this expeditious cure can only be achieved by superior skill and experience, I earnestly recommend the afflicted to be cautious how they employ any, but those who are most distinguished for a combination of practical with theoretical knowledge. It is by time chiefly, that this disorder becomes inveterate: hence the indispensable obligation on patients to make an early disclosure of their situation. False shame exposes human life to as much danger as false courage: therefore, whatever shame may attach to the contracting of the disease, there ought to be none in getting rid of it. Ignorant quacks and quackers of themselves, cut out more work for the regular physician, than all the indiscriminate intercourse of the sexes. These facts being generally admitted, indeed denied by no rational man, what becomes of the pleasing but delusive theory of the various writers on Self-Cure, who would make every man his own physician? Will the world be amused by such theories? Is it still so ignorant as to suppose the wresting from the learned, judicious, and experienced, so awful a practice as that of physic, and to place it in the hands of the uninitiated, could be other than a calamity to mankind? Such a

dangerous doctrine only leads man to be the instrument of his own destruction, and the enemy of his race. The following case, which fell under my own immediate inspection, presents a striking instance of the folly of men's attempts to cure, or rather to quack themselves. To prevent others from being wrecked on the same rock of presumption, I regard its publication as a sacred duty.

A young tradesman in Bishopsgate Street contracted the Venereal Disease, and was infected with a chancre on the glans penis, and one on the prepuce. For the cure of these, he placed himself under the care of a celebrated author, for a considerable time; but the skill of the learned doctor availed him not, though he had supplied his patient with a list of all the various medicines that were of known efficacy in the cure of this complaint. Every one knows that mercury is a specific; but every one does not know how and when to apply it to advantage. This knowledge is the fruit of experience, and of an attentive consideration of the various habits and peculiarities of constitution. Although the young man followed the doctor's directions, to persist in a mercurial course till his mouth became sore, and applied it externally besides, the disease appeared to augment in virulence. He therefore increased his dose, and more frequently repeated the ex-

ternal mercurial applications. But here, mercury was, of all medicines, the most pernicious; for the constitution had a strong inflammatory tendency, and the use of mercury only served to increase that inflammation, which it was of the first importance to allay. Through this neglect, the prepuce and glans swelled so enormously, that he was compelled to keep his bed. Here, for the want of proper medical attendance and judicious applications, a gangrene ensued; and he remained in that shocking state (the mortification having spread nearly over the whole of his testicles) for four days, without a moment's intermission of the most excruciating pain. At this lamentable crisis, I was called in, to witness the sad end of this victim to self-quackery. He was so much reduced, by the effects of the mercury and the disease, that there did not remain the slightest prospect of his recovery. After removing, however, the sloughed parts, and ordering the necessary fomentations and poultices, I prescribed two grains of opium to be taken immediately, and two tea-spoonsful of the powder of bark every hour, should his stomach be able to bear it. On my next visit, I still found him languishing and low, but the opium had procured him some alleviation of pain. The medicines, with the aid of nourishing diet, were continued,

but without the desired effect: for the patient expired the next day, leaving an useful memorial, and an awful impression on the mind, of the facility with which we may become, first the dupe, and next the victim of our own ridiculous vanity; as if, by the perusal of a treatise, however elaborately or luminously written on this subject, a stock of medical knowledge may be acquired, sufficient to enable an *unprofessional* man to cure every species of venereal infection! If this patient, at an early stage of the complaint, had consulted any well-informed practitioner, he would, from the appearance of the chancre, have been told of his constitutional disposition to inflammation; and consequently, would have been ordered to abandon the use of mercury, until this tendency should be corrected; whereas, by continuing the mercury, he aggravated, instead of lessening, his disease. The livid appearance of the skin, which is a characteristic of incipient mortification, he considered as a proof of the great virulence of the venereal poison, and naturally increased his dose. The want of a right discrimination, which is only to be acquired by a regular medical education, and an ignorance of the proper remedies against gangrenous manifestations, produced this fatal result.

and thus brought an early and a young sacrifice, to the altar of that idol of vanity—a SELF-CREATED PHYSICIAN! Secresy, in the treatment of this disease, being desirable, from various combining circumstances, a capital bait is thus afforded to youthful credulity, by the *flattering promise that patients can cure themselves in secret*. I tell such patients as attempt it, a tremendous truth; viz. that they CAN ALSO KILL THEMSELVES IN SECRET—and that, too, by the very means with which they attempt their cure? To say any more on the subject of *Self-cure* would, I think, be useless; to say less, would be criminal, in a man of scientific experience.

FINIS.

By the same Author,
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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

AND SOLD BY MESSRS. SHERWOOD AND CO., PATERNOSTER ROW; ONWHYH,
CATHERINE STREET, STRAND; WALKER, 197, HOLBORN; W. MARSH,
145, OXFORD STREET; CHAPLE, 59, PALL-MALL; BY MESSRS.
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1829.

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